By Michelle Tea

I don’t know if I’d had a falling out with a friend or was experiencing some difficulty making any in the first place, but I do remember what a powerful consolation reading was during a moment of childhood loneliness. Not really a consolation, more of a revelation. Inside every book was an entire world — at least one world, maybe even more, and friends galore. Who gave a fig about real-life friends if I could crack open a book and find intrigue and adventure, understanding and validation? People in books really seemed to ‘get me.’ And they were so much smarter and funnier than the people I knew!

Though books may have been a balm for a friendless moment, indeed, I believe I became a better friend from so much reading, as most stories are about the things that pull us together and drive us apart. I learned about what makes people tick, myself included, and by having compassion for the characters in books I learned to care about people. Aren’t we all just the narrators of our own first-person novels? Pumbling and bumbling, trying our best or succumbing to laziness, experiencing failure and triumphs in a lifetime of sizes. If I can keep rooting for an imperfect storybook character, than why not root for myself, and root for you, too?

Reading took my mind off my childish troubles, and it takes my mind off grown-up ones, too. Getting lost is a reassurance — the world is vast, bigger than whatever is dragging you down, and should you ever need to remind yourself, to escape or recharge, to find inspiration or wisdom, books are there to help you.

Attached to my revelation that, truly, all I need in life were books to be happy, was another understanding — books are endless! There are millions of them! Even if I wanted to, I could not read every single book that has ever been written, and they’re pumping out new ones by the day, by the bucket! I felt a deep, existential relief at this, this knowledge that no matter what else may happen in life I will never, ever run out of books. Forever they are there for me — and you! — whenever we want to know better how to live in this world, or whenever we wish to escape it completely.

Not Your Mother’s Books Club™ celebrates Children’s Book Week with a launch party for local phenom Michelle Tea, presenting her newest title Mermaid in Chelsea Creek.

May 14 · 7:30 PM
Books Inc. in the Castro
Leaving Everything Most Loved by Jacqueline Winspear

The year is 1933. Maisie Dobbs is contacted by an Indian gentleman with the hopes of finding out who killed his sister. Scotland Yard failed to make any arrest in the case, and there is reason to believe they failed to conduct a thorough investigation. When another Indian woman is murdered just hours before a scheduled interview the case becomes more challenging. Meanwhile, unfinished business from a previous case becomes a distraction, as does a new development in Maisie's personal life.

Available Now

Reconstructing Amelia by Kimberly McCreight

Kate is in the biggest meeting of her career when her daughter's school calls with news of Amelia's suspension. She flies the meeting to pick up Amelia, but it's too late: Amelia has jumped to her death amidst allegations of cheating. Clouded by guilt Kate believes the school's claims, until an anonymous text tells her otherwise. On a mission to vindicate her daughter, Kate is soon engaged in a love of first loves, old friendships, and an all-girls club steeped in tradition.

Available April 2nd

Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald by Therese Ann Fowler

When beautiful Southern belle Zelda Sayre meets F. Scott Fitzgerald she is seventeen years old and he is a army lieutenant stationed in Alabama. Before long, Zelda has fallen for him despite his unsuitability. Scott is not wealthy or prominent. But after Scott sells his first stories, she finds herself in New York and at the dawn of the Jazz Age, is unimagined attention and success and celebrity.

Available April 5th

Angelopolis by Danielle Trussoni

A decade has passed since Veraine saw Evangeline with her new wings. Now an elite angel hunter for the Society of Angelology, he pursues his mission with single-minded devotion: to capture, imprison, and eliminate her kind. But when Evangeline suddenly appears on a twisted Paris street Veraine is cast into a spiral of doubt and confusion that only grows when she is abducted before his eyes by a creature that has topped the society's most-wanted list for more than a century.

Available Now

The Flamethrowers by Rachel Kushner

Reno arrives in 1975 New York intent on turning her fascination with motorcycles and speed into art. When she meets a group of dreamers and racconteurs she begins an affair with an artist named Sandro Valera, the semi-strangled scion of an Italian tire and motorcycle empire. When they visit Sandro's family home in Italy, Reno falls in with members of the radical movement that overturned Italy in the seventies and betrayal sends her reeling into a clandestine undertow.

Available Now

Oleander Girl by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

Koroli Roy has enjoyed a privileged childhood with her adoring grandparents. But despite all they’ve done for her, she is troubled by the silence that surrounds the circumstances of her parents’ death. Shortly after getting engaged to the charming Rajat a sudden heart attack kills Koroli’s grandfather, revealing serious financial problems and a devastating secret about Koroli’s past. Shattered by this discovery and her grandparent’s betrayal, Koroli decides to undertake a courageous search to find her true identity.

Available Now

Palisades Park by Alan Brennert

In the 1930s there is no place more magical than Palisades Amusement Park in New Jersey — especially for seven-year-old Toni. Lured by the world’s biggest salt-water pool, Toni dreams of one day becoming a high diver. When her family splits apart as the Great Depression and Pearl Harbor happen, they are always drawn back to each other, and back to Palisades Park. Brennert takes us back to a time when life seemed simpler — except, of course, it wasn’t.

Available April 2nd

Woke Up Lonely by Fiona Maazel

Thurlow Dan is the founder of the Helix, a cult that promises to cure loneliness. But Thurlow is lonely for his ex-wife, Esmé, and their daughter, Esme, for her part, is a co-convert agent who has spent her life spying on Thurlow. Now, with her superiors demanding results, she recruits four misfits to botch a reconnaissance mission. But when Thurlow takes them hostage, he ignites a siege of the Helix House that will change all their lives forever.

Available April 2nd

The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards by Kristopher Jansma

From the jazz clubs of Manhattan to the villages of Sri Lanka, Jansma’s narrator will be inspired and haunted by the success of his greatest friend and rival in writing, the brilliantly talented Julian McGann, and endlessly enamored with Julian’s enchanting friend, Evelyn. After the trio has a disastrous falling out, desperate to tell the truth in his writing and to figure out whom he really is, Jansma’s narrator finds himself caught in a never-ending web of lies.

Available April 2nd

The Smart One by Jennifer Close

Weezy Coffey’s oldest child, Martha, is thirty and living in her childhood bedroom after a spectacular career flameout. Her middle child, Claire, has broken up with her fiancé and cancelled her wedding. And her youngest, Max, is dating Cleo, a girl so beautiful and confident she wears her swimsuit to family dinner. As the Coffey’s children’s various missteps drive them back to their childhood home, Weezy suddenly finds her empty nest crowded and her children in full-scale regression.

Available April 2nd

Heart of Palm by Laura Lee Smith

Utina, Florida once enlivened by the trade in Palm Sunday palms and moonshine hasn’t seen economic growth in decades, and no family is more emblematic of the reality than the Bravos. Little do any of them know that Utina is about to meet the tide of development that has already engulfed the rest of Northeast Florida. When opportunity knocks, tempers ignite, secrets are unearthed, and each of the Bravos is forced to confront the tragedies of their shared past.

Available Now

Life After Life by Jill McCorkle

Fine Haven Estates is a retirement facility now home to a good many of Fulton, North Carolina’s older citizens. From Stanley Stone, once Fulton’s most prominent lawyer, now feigning dementia to escape life with his son to Rachel Silverman, recently widowed, whose decision to leave her Massachusetts home and settle in Fulton is a mystery to everyone but her, McCorkle celebrates the blessings and wisdom of later life and infuses this remarkable novel with hope and laughter.

Available Now

The Golden Egg by Donna Leon

When Brunetti’s wife Paola comes to him with a request to look into the death of the dead, mentally disabled man who worked at their dry-cleaners he finds that the man left no official record. Stranger still, the dead man’s mother is reluctant to speak to the police. As clues stack up, Brunetti suspects that the Lembos, a family of aristocratic copper magnates, might be somehow connected to the death. But could anyone really want this sweet, simple-minded man dead?

Available Now

The Shelter Cycle by Peter Rock

Growing up in the Church Universal and Triumphant, friends Francine and Colville grew up believing the world could end in the 1990s. When the prophesized apocalypse did not occur the sect’s members resurfaced and the children grew up in a world they believed might no longer exist. Twenty years later, Francine and Colville are reunited while searching for an abducted girl and begin to wonder if all the things they were raised to believe were misguided, why then do they suddenly feel so true?

Available April 2nd

ebooks available @ www.booksinc.net
Make Good Art by Neil Gaiman

In May 2012, bestselling author Neil Gaiman delivered the commencement address at Philadelphia's University of the Arts, in which he shared his thoughts about creativity, bravery, and strength. He encouraged the fledgling painters, musicians, writers, and dreamers to break rules and think outside the box. Most of all, he urged them to make good art. Get inspired with the full text of his speech beautifully accompanied by renowned graphic artist Chip Kidd's book design. AVAILABLE MAY 14TH

My Dog: The Paradox by Matthew Inman

Fans of The Oatmeal.com are in for a treat with this keepsake book of Inman's instant hit My Dog: The Paradox, which eloquently illustrates the complicated relationship between man and dog. Discussing everything from the canine penchant for rolling in horse droppings, chasing large animals four times their size, and acting recklessly enthusiastic through the entirety of their impulsive, lovable lives, this is an ode to the furry, four-footed, tail-wagging bundle of love and unbridled energy frequently dubbed man's best friend. AVAILABLE MAY 7TH

The Upcycle by William McDonough & Michael Braungart

Drawing on the lessons gained from 10 years of putting the Cradle to Cradle concept into practice with businesses, governments, and ordinary people, McDonough and Braungart envision the next step in the solution to our ecological crisis. Instead of protecting the planet from human impact, why not design our activity to improve the planet? We can have a beneficial footprint. Abundance for all; the goal is within our reach. AVAILABLE NOW

The Last Train to Zona Verde by Paul Theroux

“Happy again, back in the kingdom of light,” writes Paul Theroux as he sets out on a new journey through the continent he knows and loves best, Theroux first came to Africa as a twenty-two-year-old Peace Corps volunteer, and the pull of the vast land never left him. Now he returns, after fifty years on the road, to explore the little-traveled territory of western Africa and to take stock both of the place and of himself. AVAILABLE MAY 7TH

Legends of the Blues by William Stout

Robert Johnson, Ma Rainey, Billie Holiday, Howlin' Wolf, Bessie Smith, Muddy Waters — say their names out loud and you can just hear the blues. Now, acclaimed artist William Stout visualizes these artists and their music with 100 stunning portraits, beautifully capturing the signature style of each blues legend each portrait is accompanied by authoritative biographical text with personal and humorous writing. This great gift book also includes recommended playlists and an exclusive bonus music CD. AVAILABLE NOW

Intuition Pumps & Other Tools for Thinking by Daniel C. Dennett

Here Dennett offers seventy-seven of his most successful “imagination-extenders and focus-holders” meant to guide you through some of life’s most treacherous subject matter. With patience and wit, Dennett deftly deploys his thinking tools to gain traction on these thorny issues while offering readers insight into how and where each tool was built. Ranging across disciplines as diverse as psychology, biology, computer science, and physics, Dennett’s tools embrace in equal measure light-heartedness and accessibility as they welcome uninitiated and seasoned readers alike. AVAILABLE NOW

The Book of Woe by Gary Greenberg

A contributing writer for Mother Jones, and a contributing editor for Harper’s, leading psychotherapist Gary Greenberg’s The Book of Woe is an expose of the psychiatric profession’s bible, The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM), revealing the deeply flawed process by which mental disorders are invented and un-invented — and why increasing numbers of therapy patients are being declared mentally ill. AVAILABLE MAY 2ND

Saving Normal by Allen Frances

As chairperson for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV, Allen Frances does not shy away from his responsibility in having contributed to an over-diagnosed population and a system out of balance when it comes to mental healthcare. Saving Normal comes in the wake of the publication of the DSM-V, which according to Frances offers a radical and reckless set of proposals that will overnight turn normal people into mental patients. AVAILABLE MAY 14TH

Who Owns the Future? by Jaron Lanier

There is an alternative to allowing technology to own our future. In this ambitious and deeply humane book, Lanier charts the path toward a new information economy that will stabilize the middle class and allow it to grow. It is time for ordinary people to be rewarded for what they do and share on the web. Insightful, original, and provocative, Who Owns the Future? is necessary reading for everyone who lives a part of their lives online. AVAILABLE NOW

Scatter, Adapt, and Remember by Annalee Newitz

Study of our planet’s turbulent past suggests that we are overdue for a catastrophic disaster. Newitz’s remarkable and fascinating journey through the science of mass extinctions is a powerful argument about human ingenuity and our ability to change. In a world populated by doomsday preppers and media commentators obsessedly forecasting our demise, Scatter, Adapt, and Remember leads us away from apocalyptic thinking into a future where we live to build a better world — on this planet and perhaps on others. AVAILABLE MAY 7TH

Foodist by Darya Pino Rose

Losing weight no longer has to be about sacrifice, deprivation, and willpower; it is time to turn food into something you can actually love again. Smart, accessible, and engaging, Foodist will help you tailor your eating habits to match your lifestyle and your food preferences, making sure the path you choose works for you in the short- and long-term. Not only will you permanently build healthier habits into your daily life, you’ll lose weight and enjoy food like never before. AVAILABLE MAY 14TH

The Outsider by Jimmy Connors

Connors ignited the tennis boom in the 1970s with his aggressive style of play, turning his matches with John McEnroe, Bjorn Borg, and Ivan Lendl into prizefights. But it was his prolonged dedication to his craft that won him the public’s adoration. When he retired from tennis twenty years ago, Connors all but disappeared from public view. In The Outsider, he is back at the top of his game, and as feisty, outspoken, and defiant as ever. AVAILABLE MAY 14TH

The Body Economic by David Stuckler & Sanjay Basu

Many countries have turned their recessions into veritable epemics, ruining or extinguishing thousands of lives in a misguided attempt to balance budgets and shore up financial markets. Mined from data around the globe and collected throughout history, Stuckler and Basu show how government policy becomes a matter of life and death during financial crises, and offer an alternative to austerity — one that will prevent widespread suffering, both now and in the future. AVAILABLE MAY 7TH

Steal the Menu by Raymond Sokolov

When Raymond Sokolov became food editor of “The New York Times” in 1971, he began a legendary career as restaurant critic, food historian, and author. Here he traces the food scene he reported on in America and abroad, from his path-breaking dispatches on nouvelle cuisine chefs in France, to the rise of contemporary American food, and the fruitful collision of science and cooking in kitchens such as Spain’s El Bulli. AVAILABLE MAY 14TH

Henri, Le Chat Noir by William Braden

Through his series of short films and interactions with an enthusiastic online community, Henri’s contemplation and disillusion with the world has struck a chord with millions of fans. Now, finally, we have a collection of Henri's musings in his own words featuring never-before-seen photos and quotes. This book is a window into the tortured soul of the world’s first feline philosopher. AVAILABLE NOW

Bay Bridge by Donald MacDonald & Ira Nadel

Architect of the new Bay Bridge, Donald MacDonald, teams up with author Ira Nadel to create friendly text and charming illustrations, revealing the design decisions that have shaped the evolution of the bridge over the last century — from the history of the original bridge, through the planning of the new span, to the construction of its signature 525-foot-high white tower. With its elegant packaging, this volume is perfect for San Francisco devotees, architecture buffs, and tourists alike. AVAILABLE MAY 14TH
1 7:00 PM · SF · Laurel Village · 331 California St · 415-221-5666
Pajama Party at Laurel Village! Put on your Jammies and join the party! Literary Mamas will be here to read stories and take part in the fun. Visit www.literarymama.com for details!

2 7:00 PM · SF · Opera Plaza · 601 Van Ness · 415-776-1111
Join us for a launch party with San Francisco native Barbara Rose Brooker, author of The Viara Diaries. As if dating doesn’t present enough challenges, things get further complicated in her witty novel as sixty-five complicated in her witty novel as sixty-five

3 7:00 PM · Berkley · 1760 4th Street · 510-285-7777
Bringing the Newberry Award-winning classic A Wrinkle in Time to a whole new level, Eisner Award-winner Hope Larson shares her fresh take on Meg and Charles, Wallace Murry, Calvin O’Keefe, and the three Mrs — Who, Whatist, and Which — as they fight off a dark force and save our universe. This event will feature a slide show of Hope’s vividly imagined illustrations.

4 7:00 PM · Alameda · 1334 Park Street · 510-522-2226

5 7:00 PM · Belmont Library · 110 Alameda De Las Pulgas · 650-591-8286
The Belmont Library presents Alan Fleshman, author of Fine September Morning.

6 7:30 PM · SF · World Affairs Council · 312 Sutter Street #200 · 415-293-4600

7 7:30 PM · SF · Nourse Theater · 275 Hayes Street · 415-392-4400

8 7:30 PM · SF · The Marina · 2251 Chestnut St · 415-931-3633
International bestselling author Anchee Min shares her most recent book, The Cooked Seed, the long anticipated sequel to her memoir Red Azalea, which picks up at Min’s arrival in the United States without knowing any English, and her subsequent search for self, voice, and love in her new home of Chicago.

9 7:00 PM · Palo Alto · Town & Country Village · 650-321-7060
Founders of landscape design firm Star Apple Edible & Fine Gardening in the San Francisco Bay Area Leslie Bennett and Stefani Bittner share how to not only grow organic fruits and vegetables, but also make your garden a place of year-round beauty that is appealing, enjoyable, and fits your personal style with The Beautiful Edible Garden.

10 6:30 PM · SF · Laurel Village · 3315 California St · 415-221-3666
Dive into a weird and wonderful world, complete with cockroach butchers and fulfilled fate with James Kennedy and his delightfully adventurous The Order of Odd-Fish.

11 4:00 PM · SF · Opera Plaza · 601 Van Ness · 415-776-1111
Come hear students from UC Berkeley Extension’s writing program share their works of poetry, nonfiction, and fiction at their 16th annual student reading event. All are welcome!

12 4:30 PM · Alameda · 1334 Park Street · 510-522-2226
BBQ sauce, check. Grill, check. Chilli, check. Aliens… Check?! Celebrate Children’s Book Week with a special reading of Make Me To Your BBQ, an out-of-this-world cooking adventure (which includes a delicious recipe for barbecue sauce), with illustrator Adam McCauley.

13 7:30 PM · SF · The Castro · 2275 Market St · 415-864-6777
Not Your Mother’s Books Club™ celebrates Children’s Book Week with a launch party for local phenom Michelle Tea, presenting her newest title Mermaid in Chelsea Creek, a magical story of never-ending hope. Oh, and it features a filthy, swearing mermaid. Sweet!

14 7:00 PM · SF · World Affairs Council · 312 Sutter Street #200 · 415-293-4600
Books Inc and the Palo Alto Library present David R. Gillham, author of City of Women, a multi-layered novel that tackles life in World War II Berlin as Sigrid finds herself caught between what is right and what is wrong.

15 7:00 PM · Palo Alto · Town & Country Village · 650-321-6660
The World Affairs Council presents Evgeny Morozov, author of To Save Everything, Click Here: The Folly of Technological Solutionism.
7:00 PM • Berkeley - 1760 4th Street • 510-555-7777
Books Inc. in Berkeley proudly presents Indra’s Net Theater performing a live scene from Michael Frayn’s Tony Award-winning play Copenhagen, an ambitious and intelligent re-imagining of what was said between physicists Werner Heisenberg and Niels Bohr in 1941 Copenhagen.

16
7:00 PM • Alameda - 1344 Park Street • 510-522-2226
The Big Yes Society Book Club presents Rachel Neumann, author of Not Quite Nirvana, an honest and vivid memoir recalling Rachel’s transformation from a skeptical, fast-talking New Yorker to Thich Nhat Hanh’s editor and her journey to mindfulness along the way.

7:00 PM • Mountain View - 301 Castro St • 650-428-1234
President of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America and Hugo Award-winning author John Scalzi shares The Human Division. For the first time in print following the three-month digital serial of early 2013, the complete novel also includes the first tale of Lieutenant Harry Wilson, a soldier, with his honest and witty memoir: A Not So Nice Jewish Boy Faces World War II.

7:00 PM • SF - Opera Plaza - 601 Van Ness • 415-776-1111
Playwright, novelist, and actor Norman Beim shares the good, the bad, and the ugly from his life growing up as the first-born son of a Jewish immigrant family, and his time as a soldier. In conversation with Marc Epstein.

7:00 PM • SF - Opera Plaza - 601 Van Ness • 415-776-1111
Award-winning commentator, columnist, and author Joan Steinau Lester shares Mama’s Child, the passionate story of Ruby, a bi-racial girl struggling with self-identity. It isn’t until Ruby becomes a mother herself that she begins to understand her own mother’s love that transcended it all.

17
7:00 PM • SF - The Marina - 2251 Chestnut St • 415-931-3633
New York Times best-selling author Claire Messud shares her masterly new novel, The Woman Upstairs, a tale of passion and artistic fulfillment following the thrill and cost of embracing an authentic life. In conversation with performer artist Pamela Z.

19
2:30 PM • SF - Laurel Village - 3515 California St • 415-221-3666
A writer for the San Francisco Chronicle’s parenting blog “The Poop” and a stay-at-home dad, Michael Adamick is an expert on DIY activities and his book Dad’s Book of Awesome Projects is packed with over twenty-five projects that are sure to entertain everyone in the family, and make everyone say “TV? Why?”

7:00 PM • SF - JCC - 3200 California Street • 415-292-1200
As part of the Jews & Money Series the JCCSF presents The True Value of the Jewish Community featuring Rabbi David Ellenson, author of Righteous Indignation: A Jewish Call for Justice, Robert Bellah, author of Religion in Human Evolution, Stanford University’s Ari Kelman, and UPstart’s Toby Rubin.

7:00 PM • SF - Opera Plaza - 601 Van Ness • 415-776-1111
Judy Mandel shares her powerful memoir Replacement Child. After an American Airlines flight crashed into the Mandel’s family home in New Jersey on a winter afternoon in 1962 the course of all their lives was forever changed.

22
5:00 PM • Palo Alto - Town & Country Village • 650-321-0660
Come out and support Palo Alto’s own Fairmound Elementary at their shopping night with featured author Cynthia Chinn-Lee sharing her book Operation Marriage, an illustrated story set in San Francisco.

7:00 PM • SF - JCC - 3200 California Street • 415-292-1200

21
7:00 PM • Berkeley - 1760 4th Street • 510-525-7777
Jenny Milchman shares her gripping debut thriller, Cover of Snow. Nora Hamilton wakes one morning and discovers her husband has taken his own life. But without a note, and no signs of depression leading up to his final day, Nora must face hard truths and begin an uphill battle to find the truth.

7:00 PM • SF - JCC - 3200 California Street • 415-292-1200
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7:00 PM • SF - The Marina - 2251 Chestnut St • 415-931-3633
Elizabeth Scarboro shares her story of young love and loss with her memoir: My Foreign Cities. As a teenager Elizabeth dreamed of adventurously travelling the world, until she met and fell in love with Stephen, who was living with cystic fibrosis. Choosing to live a full marriage with their limited time became the ups-and-downs of his illness.

7:00 PM • SF - The Marina - 2251 Chestnut St • 415-931-3633
A member of Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime, Robert K. Lewis shares Untold Damage. When former undercover cop Mark Mallen awakens from a haze of heroin he finds himself the prime suspect in the murder of his best friend from the academy. As if solving a murder isn’t challenging enough, first Mark must get clean, and escape those thugs who want him dead.

7:30 PM • SF - The Castro - 2275 Market St • 415-864-6777
In commemoration of Harvey Milk’s birthday the SF GLBT History Museum and Books Inc. present an Archive of Hope: Harvey Milk’s Speeches and Writings, with editors Jason Edward Black and Charles E. Morris III, photographer & former employee at Harvey Milk’s camera shop, Daniel Nicoletta, and Harvey’s speechwriter, Frank Robinson.

20
7:00 PM • SF - Laurel Village - 3515 California St • 415-221-3666
Bestselling author Meg Donohue celebrates the release of her second novel, All the Summer Girls, a heartfelt and riveting story of three friends reunited amidst unraveling lives and the secrets that surface in the beach town of their youth.

23
7:00 PM • SF - The Marina - 2251 Chestnut St • 415-931-3633
The San Francisco Travel Book Club and Lecture Series presents Joe Diao, co-founder of Afa Magazine.

7:00 PM • SF - The Marina - 2251 Chestnut St • 415-931-3633
The San Francisco Travel Book Club and Lecture Series presents Joe Diao, co-founder of Afa Magazine.

7:30 PM • SF - Nourse Theater • 275 Hayes Street • 415-392-4400
City Arts and Lectures presents Adam Savage of the Discovery Channel’s Mythbusters in conversation with John Hodgman, author of That Is All.

7:30 PM • SF - The Castro - 2275 Market St • 415-864-6777
A current Jones Lecturer at Stanford University, Greg Wrenn shares his debut collection of poetry, Contour. With voices as varied as Robert Mapplethorpe to Hercules, this collection skitters along the blurred lines between compulsivity and following one’s heart, stasis and self-realization, human and animal.

7:30 PM • SF - Nourse Theater • 275 Hayes Street • 415-392-4400
City Arts and Lectures presents Adam Savage of the Discovery Channel’s Mythbusters in conversation with John Hodgman, author of That Is All.

8:00 PM • Berkeley - 1760 4th Street • 510-525-7777
Join Urban Waite for a discussion of The Carolina Birds, a noirish thriller set in a small Southwest town full of vengeance and violence. Urban will be in conversation with Benjamin Percy, author of Red Moon, a gripping and humanizing tale of werewolves in contemporary society.

7:00 PM • SF - The Marina - 2251 Chestnut St • 415-931-3633
Bee Ridgway shares her imaginative debut novel, The River of No Return. Two hundred years after Nick Falsott was about to die on a Napoleon-onic battlefield he wakes up in modern London and suddenly a member of The Guild, who are his only hope of returning to the life he misses.

7:30 PM • SF - Nourse Theater • 275 Hayes Street • 415-392-4400
City Arts and Lectures presents David Simon, creator of The Wire and Treme and author of Homicides: A Year on the Killing Streets, David Chang, executive chef and author of the Momofuku cookbook & creator of Lucky Peach magazine, in conversation with Michael Krasny.
The Red Book  
by Deborah Copaken Kogan

Clover, Addison, Mia, and Jane were roommates at Harvard until their graduation in 1989. Like all Harvard grads, they’ve kept abreast of one another via the red book, a class report published every five years. But there’s the story we tell the world, and there’s the real story. When they arrive with their families, their histories, their dashed dreams, and their secret yearnings to a relationship-changing, score-settling, unforgettatable weekend, they’ll learn the difference. AVAILABLE MAY 7TH

A Lady Cyclist’s Guide to Kashgar  
by Suzanne Joinson

1923 — As missionaries in the Silk Road country of Kashgar, sister’s Eva and Lizzie explore the fault lines that appear when traditions from different parts of an increasingly globalized world crash into one another. Along the way Lizzie, who is not as enthusiastic about spreading the word, works on A Lady Cyclist’s Guide to Kashgar; and the two of them meet a cast of unforgettable characters and they explore the country and their links to this foreign world. AVAILABLE NOW

The Guns at Last Light  
by Rick Atkinson

Told from the perspective of participants at every level Atkinson has masterfully covered the brutal fight in Normandy, the liberation of Paris, the disaster that was Operation Market Garden, the horrific Battle of the Bulge, and finally the thrust to the heart of the Third Reich. When Germany at last surrenders, we understand anew both the devastating cost of this global conflagration and the enormous effort required to win the Allied victory. AVAILABLE MAY 14TH

Saving Italy  
by Robert M. Edsel

Italy, 1943 — With the German army retreating up the Italian peninsula, orders came from the highest levels of the Nazi government to transport truckloads of art into the Reich. In May 1944 two unlikely American heroes — artist Deane B. Beman and scholar Fred Hartt — embarked from Naples on the treasure hunt of a lifetime. Saving Italy brings readers from Milan to the inner sanctum of the Vatican and behind closed doors with the preeminent Allied and Axis leaders. AVAILABLE NOW

Bunker Hill  
by Nathaniel Philbrick

Boston in 1775 is an island city occupied by British troops. After the Boston Tea Party, British and American soldiers and Massachusetts residents have warily maneuvered around each other until April 19, when violence erupts at Lexington and Concord. In June, however, with the city cut off from supplies by a British blockade, skirmishes give way to outright war in the Battle of Bunker Hill. It would be the bloodiest battle of the Revolution to come. AVAILABLE NOW

Confound of a Sociopath  
by M.E. Thomas

Drawn from Thomas’ own experiences, Confessions of a Sociopath reveals just how different — and yet often very similar — sociopaths are from the rest of us. The book confirms suspicions and debunks myths about sociopathy and is both the memoir of a high-functioning, law-abiding (well, mostly) sociopath and a roadmap — right from the source — for dealing with the sociopath in your life, be it a boss, spouse, or friend. AVAILABLE MAY 14TH

Capital  
by John Lanchester

It’s 2008 and things are falling apart: Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers are going under, and the residents of Pepsy Road, London a banker and his shopaholic wife, an old woman dying of a brain tumor and her graffiti-artist grandson, Pakistani shop owners and a shadowy refugee who works as the meter maid, the young soccer star from Senegal and his minder are receiving anonymous postcards reading We Want What You Have. Who is behind it? What do they want? AVAILABLE NOW

Midnight in Peking  
by Paul French

In January 1937, the mutilated body of schoolgirl Pamela Werner was found at the base of the Fox Tower. As British detective Dennis and Chinese detective Han investigate, the mystery only deepens and, in a city on the verge of invasion, rumor and superstition run rampant. Based on seven years of research by historian and China expert Paul French, this true-crim thriller presents readers with a rare and unique portrait of the last days of colonial Peking. AVAILABLE NOW

Waiting to Be Heard  
by Amanda Knox

In the fall of 2007, 20-year-old Amanda Knox left Seattle to study abroad in Italy, but her life was shattered when her roommate was murdered in their apartment. After a controversial trial, Amanda was convicted and imprisoned. But in 2011, an appeals court overturned the decision. Free at last, she returned home to the US. Waiting to Be Heard is the full story of her harrowing ordeal in Italy and of the unwavering support of family and friends. AVAILABLE NOW

The World’s Strongest Librarian  
by Josh Hanagarne

Determined to conquer his Tourette’s tics, Josh Hanagarne underwent everything from quack remedies to lethargy-inducing drug regimes, until at last, an eccentric, autistic strongman taught Josh how to “throttle” his tics into submission through strength-training. Today Josh is a librarian and strongman. With humor and candor The World’s Strongest Librarian illuminates the mysteries of this little-understood disorder, as well as the very different worlds of strongman training and modern libraries. AVAILABLE MAY 2ND

Impossible Odds  
by Jessica Buchanan & Erik Lundelam

In 2006, Jessica Buchanan arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, with a teaching degree and long-held dreams of helping to educate African children. By 2009, she had met and married the man of her dreams, Erik Lundelam. On October 21, 2011, she and a male colleague were kidnapped at gunpoint and held for ransom by an organized band of Somali land pirates. Impossible Odds is the riveting story of Jessica’s suffering in captivity and her husband’s unwavering determination to free her. AVAILABLE MAY 14TH

Lionel Asbo: State of England  
by Martin Amis

Lionel Asbo, a terrifyingly weirdly loyal thug has always looked out for his nephew, Desmond. Asbo is determined they should share the joys of criminality. Des, on the other hand, desires none of it. Just as Des begins to lead a gentler life, Asbo wins millions in the lottery and hires a public relations firm to handle his sudden fame. But Lionel’s true nature remains uncompromised while his problems, and therefore also Desmond’s, seem only to multiply. AVAILABLE MAY 7TH

Phantom  
by Jo Nesbø

When Harry left Oslo again for Hong Kong he thought he was there for good. But then the son of the woman he loved, lost, and still loves is arrested for murder. When Harry returns to Oslo he sets out to prove Oleg’s innocence. Once on his solitary, increasingly dangerous investigation he finds himself deep in the world of the most virulent drug to hit the streets of Oslo, and into the maze of his own past. AVAILABLE NOW

The Wolf and the Watchman  
by Scott C. Johnson

Scott C. Johnson was a teenager when he discovered his father was a spy for the CIA. As an adult Scott embarked on a career as a foreign correspondent. In the aftermath of 9/11, father and son found themselves on assignment in Afghanistan and Scott was forced to keep his father’s secret all over again. As their professional lives collided, Scott and his father overcame a lifetime of suspicion and deception, this is their story. AVAILABLE NOW

The Astor Orphan  
by Alexandra Aldrich

Alexandra Aldrich, a direct descendant of the famous Astor dynasty, grew up in the servants’ quarters of Rokeby, the forty-three-room Hudson Valley mansion built by her ancestors. Her childhood was one of bohemian neglect and real privation. Reaching back to the Gilded Age, when that legacy first took root, and moving forward to the present, Alexandra has written an unflinching, mordantly funny account of neglect and class anxiety amid the ruins of a once prominent family. AVAILABLE NOW

Uncommon Youth  
by Charles Fox

Charles Fox has been following and researching the kidnapping of J. Paul Getty III since the days shortly after his disappearance. Uncommon Youth raises new angles about the bizarre case, from Paul III grandfather’s reluctance to pay the kidnappers, to his eventual release, and covers his troubled youth and struggles with alcohol and drugs. The book also includes many interviews with Getty himself conducted from the late 1970s to the early 1990s. AVAILABLE MAY 7TH

Robert Oppenheimer  
by Ray Monk

The son of German-Jewish immigrants, Oppenheimer was a man of phenomenal intellectual attributes, driven by an ambition to overcome his status as an outsider and penetrate the heart of political and social life. With his actions leading up to the development of the atomic bomb, Oppenheimer set himself on a dangerous collision course with Senator Joseph McCarthy and his witch-hunters. Through compassionate investigation, Ray Monk’s Robert Oppenheimer tells an unforgettable story of discovery, secrecy, impossible choices, and unimaginable destruction. AVAILABLE MAY 14TH

 ebooks available at www.booksinc.net
**ALAMEDA**

- **Tuesday · 7:00 PM**
  - Alameda's Young Adult Book Club (ages 16+) will meet.

- **Wednesday · 7:00 PM**
  - The Neptune Garden Book Club will discuss *Death Comes to Pemberley* by P.D. James.

- **Thursday · 7:00 PM**
  - The Big Yes Society Discussion Group will discuss *Not Quite Nirvana: A Skeptics Journey to Mindfulness* by guest author Rachel Neuman.

- **Friday · 5:00 PM**
  - The Our Parents Made Us Do This Book Club will meet.

- **Saturday · 11:00 AM**
  - The First Saturday Book Club will discuss *Little Big Man* by Thomas Berger.

**BURLINGAME**

- **Thursday · 7:00 PM**
  - The Recommended By A Stranger Book Club will discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows.

- **Thursday · 7:00 PM**
  - The Healthy Lives Book Group will discuss *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone* by Eric Klinenberg.

- **Friday · 5:00 PM**
  - The Adventurous Readers Club will discuss *The Expeditioners and the Treasure of Drowned Man’s Canyon* by S.S. Taylor.

- **Sunday · 1:00 PM**
  - The Women We’d Like To Lunch With Book Club will discuss *The Uninvited Guests* by Sadie Jones.

**MOUNTAIN VIEW**

- **Monday · 7:30 PM**
  - The Broken Compass Adventure Book Club will discuss *Packin’ for Mars* by Mary Roach.

- **Tuesday · 7:00 PM**
  - The Politically Inspired Book Club will meet.

- **Wednesday · 7:30 PM**
  - The Foreign Intrigue Book Club will discuss *Nights of Awe* by Harri Nykänen.

- **Wednesday · 6:00 PM**
  - The Modern Lit Book Club will discuss *Hunger* by Knut Hamsun.

**OPERÁ PLAZA**

- **Saturday · 10:00 AM**
  - The Second Saturday Book Club will discuss *The Glass Room* by Simon Mawe.

- **Sunday · 6:00 PM**
  - The Modern Lit Book Club will discuss *The Glass Room* by Simon Mawe.

**PALO ALTO**

- **Sunday · 6:00 pM**
  - The Speculative Fiction Book Group will discuss *The Rook* by Daniel O’Malley.

- **Monday · 7:00 PM**
  - The Book Bites Middle School Book Club (ages 9-12) will discuss *The Emerald Key* by Christopher Dinsdale.

**THE CASTRO**

- **Wednesday · 7:00 PM**
  - The SFLGBT Book Club will discuss *Jack Holmes and His Friend* by Edmund White.

**THE MARINA**

- **Wednesday · 6:00 PM**
  - The San Francisco Travel Book Club and Lecture Series will discuss *Butter Tea at Sunrise: A Year in the Bhutan Himalaya* by Britta Das.

- **Thursday · 7:00 PM**
  - The Miss Jane Austen Book Club will discuss *The Italian* by Ann Radcliffe.

- **Saturday · 6:00 PM**
  - The SFLGBT Book Club will discuss *The Table Comes First: Family, France, and the Meaning of Food* by Adam Gopnik.

**BERKELEY**

- **Sunday · 6:00 PM**
  - The Foreign Intrigue Book Club will discuss *Nights of Awe* by Harri Nykänen.

- **Wednesday · 6:00 PM**

**BOOKS INC. CLUBS CALENDAR**

- **Beginning this month, the Modern Lit Book Club is moving from Books Inc. in the Marina to Opera Plaza!**

- **Hope to see you there!**

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**Gold** by Chris Cleave

If your dreams pull you in one direction and your heart in another, which should you follow? This is the question that haunts Kate Meadows, a world champion athlete whose eight-year-old daughter Sophie is battling a recurrence of childhood leukemia just as Kate is about to compete for her last chance at an Olympic gold medal. **AVAILABLE NOW**

**The Art Forger** by B.A. Shapiro

Claire makes her living reproducing famous works of art for a popular online retailer. Desperate to improve her situation, she makes a Faustian bargain with gallery owner Aiden Markel to forge a painting — one of the Degas masterpieces stolen from the Gardner Museum in 1990. But when the long-missing Degas painting is delivered to Claire’s studio, she begins to suspect that it may itself be a forgery. **AVAILABLE MAY 7TH**

**The Dog Stars** by Peter Heller

Hig somehow survived the flu pandemic that killed everyone he knows. Now he lives in the hangar of a small abandoned airport with his dog, Jasper, and a mercurial, gun-toting misanthrope named Bangley. When a random transmission beams through the radio of his 1956 Cessna, the voice ignites a hope that a better life exists outside their tightly controlled perimeter. **AVAILABLE MAY 7TH**

**Sutton** by J.R. Moehringer

Willie Sutton was born in the Irish slums of Brooklyn in 1901, and he came of age at a time when banks were out of control. Sutton saw only one way out and only one way to win the girl of his dreams. So began the career of America’s most successful bank robber that the public rooted for. **AVAILABLE MAY 7TH**

**The Yellow Birds**

*by Kevin Powers*

In Al Ta’far, Iraq, twenty-one-year-old Private Bartle and eighteen-year-old Private Murphy cling to life as their platoon launches a bloody battle for the city. Bound together since basic training when Bartle makes a promise to bring Murphy safely home, the two have been dropped into a war neither is prepared for. **AVAILABLE NOW**

**Bring Up the Bodies**

*by Hilary Mantel*

The sequel to Hilary Mantel’s 2009 Man Booker Prize winner and “New York Times” bestseller, *Bring Up The Bodies* delves into the heart of Tudor history with the downfall of Anne Boleyn. To defeat the Boleyns, Cromwell must ally with his natural enemies, the papist aristocracy. What price will he pay for Anne’s head? **AVAILABLE MAY 7TH**

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**BOOK BITES: Tasty Tales in Twenty**

*Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows*

A year after the deaths of her parents, Kate Atwood discovers a box containing letters and a stack of manuscript pages written by the mysterious, long-dead Elizabeth, Countess of Sharrard. **AVAILABLE NOW**

**The Glass Castle**

*by Jeannette Walls*

A memoir about growing up in the fundamentalist family that was Walls’ childhood home in Tennessee. **AVAILABLE MAY 7TH**

**The Art Forger**

*by B.A. Shapiro*

Claire makes her living reproducing famous works of art for a popular online retailer. Desperate to improve her situation, she makes a Faustian bargain with gallery owner Aiden Markel to forge a painting — one of the Degas masterpieces stolen from the Gardner Museum in 1990. But when the long-missing Degas painting is delivered to Claire’s studio, she begins to suspect that it may itself be a forgery. **AVAILABLE MAY 7TH**

**Death Comes to The Yellow Birds**

*by Aiden Markel*

Aiden Markel to forge a painting — one of the Degas masterpieces stolen from the Gardner Museum in 1990. But when the long-missing Degas painting is delivered to Claire’s studio, she begins to suspect that it may itself be a forgery. **AVAILABLE MAY 7TH**

**Beyond the Killing Ground**

*by John Connolly*

Samuel Johnson’s first assignment as a foreign correspondent is to investigate the American Revolution. **AVAILABLE MAY 7TH**

**NEW SOUTH AFRICA**

*by Knut Hamsun*

Hamsun’s novel, set during the Boer War, explores the heart of the conflict between those who dress in themed ensembles and those who dress as themselves. **AVAILABLE MAY 7TH**
Steam Train, Dream Train by Sherri Duskey Rinker & Tom Lichtenheld

For those of you who already know and love Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site comes a new, but similarly perfect night-night book from this New York Times Bestselling duo. With rhyming text and soothing, blue hued illustrations, Steam Train, Dream Train is the perfect book to help your wee one unwind. AVAILABLE NOW (AGES 3-6)

The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey

It’s not a popularity contest. But if it was? The 5th Wave might well be a winner. Already devoured by plenty of Books Inc. staffers, this book contains a terrifyingly plausible alien attack. Tense, exciting and very, very scary, we cannot wait to get this book into the hands of reluctant and voracious readers alike. For teens who loved Divergent and for adults who loved World War Z, this one is likely to be the one. AVAILABLE MAY 7TH (AGES 12+)

That is Not a Good Idea by Mo Willems

Saying a book by Mo Willems is hilarious and that kids will love it is kind of like saying the Golden Gate Bridge is pretty and people like to visit it. OBVIOUSLY. So here’s what we’ll say instead: the call and response aspect of this book, the signature Mo Willems-y style that made the Pigeon books so beloved, is turned brilliantly on its head in a way both kids and their grown-ups will relish. So read it, be surprised, smile and enjoy. AVAILABLE NOW! (AGES 4-8)

Doll Bones by Holly Black

No time is better for a little spooky reading than the summer—so join Zach, Poppy and Alice as they embark on one last adventure together. Set at the cross-section of being a teen and being a kid, of make-believe and reality, Doll Bones is the perfect read for the reader in between. Replete with sinister plot twists and a bone-chilling doll. AVAILABLE MAY 7TH (AGES 10-14)

ON SALE NOW

Start your summer off right by grabbing your tickets now to meet Sarah Dessen, June 10 at 7:00 pm at Books Inc. in Opera Plaza! Sarah will be celebrating the release of The Moon and More, the perfect summer read full of romance and empowerment. Call 415-776-1111 or online at www.booksinc.net.

Chelsea Dinnerstein

**May 13 · 4:30 PM**
Becks Inc. in Palo Alto
Being a princess isn’t all pretty gowns and fancy parties, there’s also dragons to fight and trolls to tame. Join us for a Children’s Book Week celebration with Deborah Underwood, author of Part-Time Princess: Girl by Day, Princess by Night.

**May 13 · 6:30 PM**
Becks Inc. in Laurel Village
Celebrate Children’s Book Week with a Launch Party for Dana Reinhardt’s release of Odessa Again. When Odessa is sent to her room for misbehaving she strops her way there. Then with one heavy stomp she finds herself 24 hours in the past with a chance to change her circumstances.

**May 14 · 4:00 PM**
Becks Inc. in Mountain View
Marissa Moss, author of the Amelia’s Notebook Series, discusses Japanese Internment in America during WWII at this Children’s Book Week after school storyline!

**May 14 · 6:00 PM**
The Book Busters Middle Reader Book Club (ages 12+) will discuss The Emerald Key by Christopher Dinsdale.

**May 15 · 6:00 PM**
Becks Inc. in Laurel Village
Children’s Book Week celebrations continue with Elissa Haden Guest. Bella makes her own rules. But when Bella gets a puppy who feels just as loose with rules, Bella’s Rules are in for a change.

**May 15 · 7:00 PM**
Becks Inc. in Berkeley
Celebrate the sequel to The Cabinet of Earths at our launch party, complete with tasty treats, and the amazing Ann Nesbet. In Box of Gar- gogyes Maya is enning her new life in Paris with her little brother, James. That is until the terri- ble man with the purple eyes appears to be coming back...

**May 17 · 7:00 PM**
Becks Inc. in Palo Alto
The Wild Girls Mother Daughter Book Club will discuss The Center of Everything by Linda Urban.

**May 18 · 4:00 PM**
Becks Inc. in Mountain View
Trucks in all colors, shapes, and sizes! Learn what they’re for and how they’re used at a special story time celebrating Children’s Book Week with Sue Fliess and her adorably illustrated touch-and-move book, Tons of Trucks!

**May 18 · 11:00 AM**
Becks Inc. in the Marina
Oh My Gosh! Story Time is celebrating Children’s Book Week with two authors that bring big dreams and big adventures to every day. Jim Averbeck will share Oh No, Little Dragon! and Bethanie Deeney Mur- guia will share Zoe Gets Ready.

**May 19 · 11:00 AM**
Becks Inc. in Burlingame
Celebrate Children’s Book Week and join Ji-Li Jiang for a very special story time reading of Red Kite, Blue Kite. A beautiful and inspirational story of Tai Shan and his father, Baba, who are forced apart during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, but never give up on freedom or family.

**May 19 · 1:00 PM**
Becks Inc. in Laurel Village
The Center of Everything by Linda Urban.

Shannon is our Senior Children’s Buyer. Not only does she have the fabulous taste that makes Books Inc. Kids what it is today, but she’s also a mommy of two! For 2013, we will be featuring her very favorites. Enjoy!

**May 14 · 4:00 PM**
Becks Inc. in Palo Alto
Luann Colosimo, author of the Charlie & Lola duo will share some of childhood’s major fears and milestones, and also being vehemently NOT tired at bedtime, and also being vehemently opposed to eating tomatoes. Don’t miss her adorable chapter book series about Charlie & Lola and the recent middle grade books starring mystery solving Ruby Redfort. And, in my opinion, no child’s book shelf is complete without Lauren’s delightfully illustrated version of Pippi Longstocking!