

The QUILL

Store Hours

Sunday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Monday to Saturday 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

May 2007
Volume 3, Number 5

The Inkwell Bookstore • 199 Main Street • Falmouth,

Massachusetts 02540 • Phone 508-540-0039 • www.inkwellbookstore.com

From the Desk of the Inkwell's Owners

How do you choose what books to read? Recommendations from friends and family? Your book club? NPR or newspaper reviews? Online reviews? Your local bookstore? Among our staff, we frequently share books, and our excitement is contagious. Steve just returned from vacation raving about Shirley Jackson's *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, so we've all been reading it. Referrals bring unexpected and possibly forgotten titles to our attention. Cristin wrote in a recent Inkwell Blog post about influencing a friend's reading by making suggestions. As booksellers, it is a singular thrill to have someone take your recommendation, even better when you hear feedback that the book was wonderful!

In the April 27th LA Times, bestselling author Michael Connelly wrote about the current trend of disappearing book reviews. "Across the country, papers are cutting back on the space, attention and care they devote to books." He lists some papers that have cut their book editors and chopped their book sections: LA Times, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Chicago Tribune, Raleigh News & Observer, Orlando Sentinel, and the Cleveland Plain Dealer. He concludes his essay by saying, "What is at stake is something more than the financial health of the newspaper and book businesses. The publishing industry has always relied on reviews and on the commentary of great critics in newspapers to champion the new voices of literature as well as regional and genre writing. The reading public has gone to these venues to make discoveries. Now where will new voices be discovered?" The answer most people would give is online. This is a debatable topic, since it is fraught with both good and bad elements. There are so many voices and options online that choice is unlimited, but finding knowledgeable in-depth coverage about books isn't as easy as picking up the New York Times Book Review each Sunday or reading the Book Sense Picks each month. Losing any resource that keeps up the dialogue about books is unfortunate to authors, publishers, bookstores, and libraries. But more importantly, the reader is the one who will lose out. Without the winnowing of the 170,000 books published each year, so many fine books will be missed.

Sincerely,
Kathleen & Michelle

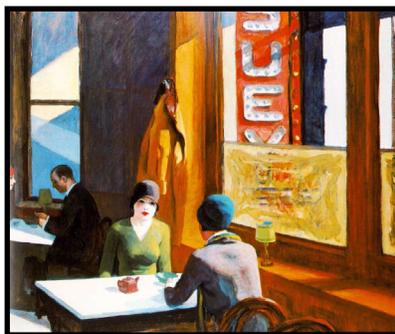


P.S. Read the Michael Connelly essay in full, visit the Inkwell Blog at <http://inkwellbookstore.blogspot.com/2007/04/no-respect-book-reviews.html>

Guided Tour to the Edward Hopper Exhibit

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2007
9:30 AM - 5:30 PM



MFA excursion includes morning coffee and pastries at Inkwell, round-trip private motorcoach, tip for the driver, museum and exhibit entrance, professional guided tour, and refreshments at the Inkwell at the day's end. Edward Hopper was the master of light and dark. His luminous paintings capture classic images of middle-class America. This exhibition focuses on the period of Hopper's greatest achievements—from about 1925 to mid-century, during which he produced many works now considered icons of American art including the favorites *Nighthawks*, *Chop Suey*, and *Lighthouse and Buildings*, *Portland Head*, Cape Elizabeth, Maine, this exhibition of Hopper is not to be missed! You may reserve your spot today.

FRIDAY, MAY 1-31

ART SCENE AT THE INKWELL



Colorful Connections Art & Photo Exhibit

Keith Kost • Dolores Howard
Robert Noreika • Joan St. Clair Roof

Join us for a month long exhibit.

3 artists and 1 photographer.

MEET THE ARTISTS

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Wine & Cheese Reception

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Gary Girouard Naked Piano Night

Enjoy live piano music by Gary Girouard while browsing books. His original compositions offer a captivating view of the timeless nature of the piano. A portion of each CD sale is donated to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, in Ashford, Connecticut that provides camp experience for children with cancer and blood disorders.

Friday, May 11, 6:00 PM

Craig B. Smith Extreme Waves

Craig B. Smith will give a talk and answer audience questions about his book *Extreme Waves*. The book is a fascinating history of extreme ocean waves which are both hypnotic and beautiful. Smith covers such headline stories as the 2004 tsunami and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as incidents that are less well-known, but equally startling. *How the Great Pyramid Was Built* contains many new insights into how the mammoth structure was actually built. His education includes a B.S. degree from Stanford University and a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles.



Saturday, May 19, 3:00 PM

Robert Whitcomb Cape Wind

This contemporary, hot topic is a must read for Cape residents. Author Robert Whitcomb will give a talk and answer audience questions. When Jim Gordon set out to build a wind farm off the coast of Cape Cod, he knew some people might object. But there was a lot of merit in creating a privately-funded, clean energy source for energy-starved New England, and he felt sure most people would recognize it eventually. Instead, all Hell broke loose. Gordon had unwittingly challenged the privileges of some of America's richest and most politically connected people, and they would fight him tooth and nail, no matter what it cost. *Cape Wind* is a rollicking tale of democracy in action and plutocracy in the raw as played out among colorful and glamorous characters on one of our country's most historic and renowned pieces of coastline. It is a cautionary tale about how money can hijack democracy while America lags behind the rest of the developed world in adopting clean energy.

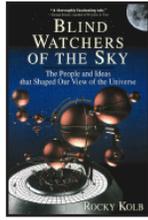


Staff Reviews

Recommended by MICHELLE

Blind Watchers of the Sky

By Rocky Kolb
Perseus Books, \$18.00



“My brother is an amateur astronomer who introduced our family to the wonders of stargazing. On his recommendation, I read *Blind Watchers of the Sky*. Kolb, theoretical astrophysicist and a Professor and Chair of the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago, is described as having a dry wit. His humor enlivens this history of cosmology, and makes the personalities behind the great astronomical discoveries of the past 400 years really come to life. My favorite part of the book follows the passions and obsessions of two early astronomers: Tycho Brahe, a Danish nobleman in the 16th century, who recorded the most accurate astronomical data at Uraniborg, his research facility where he built large astronomical instruments, and his assistant Johannes Kepler, a mathematician who used Brahe’s data to form the Three Laws of Planetary Motion. After reading *Blind Watchers*, the night sky is more comprehensible, but even more awe inspiring.”

Recommended by KATHLEEN

Barefoot Contessa Family Style: Easy Ideas and Recipes That Make Everyone Feel Like Family

By Ina Garten
Clarkson N. Potter, \$35.00



“Given the 100 plus cookbooks I have collected over the years, you would think it would be difficult to pick a favorite – it’s NOT! Far and away, I refer to this particular Barefoot Contessa cookbook more than any other, both for family meals and entertaining. No recipe requires special trips to expensive markets and every one is easy to follow. How many recipes actually turn out looking like the beautiful color photograph? These do! Ina has also included a “Cooking for Kids” section. I encourage you to take a look at this book for the chef or new bride in your family.”

Recommended by STEPHEN

We Have Always Lived in the Castle

By Shirley Jackson
Penguin, \$14.00



“I judged a book by its cover and was dead right! *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, re-released in 2006 with an introduction by Jonathan Lethem, is a dark tale of the bond between two sisters living on a secluded estate with a little magic to aid in keeping unwelcome guests away. Jackson writes with a passion. She knows what it’s like to feel the pain of isolation, and conveys it well with her characters Constance and Mary Katherine. Anyone who has ever been excluded from some social circle will sympathize with the odd remnants of the Blackwood Family. Shirley Jackson was a writer for *The New Yorker Magazine* and won critical acclaim for her short story “The Lottery.” This book is at the top of my list of enjoyable reads. I long to tell you the entire tale but will leave you with two final words - sugar bowl.”

Recommended by CRISTIN

Leaving Saturn: Poems

By Major Jackson
University of Georgia Press, \$16.95



“Major Jackson is a poet who deserves a great deal of recognition. *Leaving Saturn* is a collection of masterful sounds and edgy beats. He makes you see steam grates and smell city smells. His work goes through incredible phrases - at once hard and soft. Jackson explores more than his observations of life in Philadelphia. He takes stock of what it is to be an artist, a master of words when all thoughts and words seem used and taxed. His energy - wild and uninhibited - is well worth your while.”

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2:00 PM

The Outermost House by Henry Beston
Presented by Silver Hollow Audio

Discussion and reading

Dr. Daniel G. Payne, professor at SUNY Oneonta and Beston’s biographer, will speak about Beston and his work. Following that, audiobook narrator, Brett Barry, will read selections from *The Outermost House*.



“A book of a thousand pages begins with one page.”

— Ling Po

BOOK CLUBS

CONTEMPORARY FICTION CLUB

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 7:00 PM

Easter Island

By Jennifer Vandebes
Random House, \$14.95

All are welcome to come discuss the best of the current crop of fiction. Enjoy complimentary coffee while chatting about books.

SCIENCE FICTION READING GROUP

MONDAY, MAY 21, 7:00 PM

The Complete Roderick

By John Sladek
Overlook Press, \$17.95

Public welcome. The SF Reading Group has been meeting for 8 years, and reads a broad selection of current and classic speculative fiction.

CLASSICS BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1:00 PM

Razor’s Edge

By W. Somerset Maugham
Random House, \$14.00

Public welcome! Betsy Doud moderates this lively discussion about classic literature. Enjoy complimentary coffee while talking about books.

HISTORY BOOK GROUP

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 7:00 PM

Paris 1919

By Margaret MacMillan
Random House, \$16.95

This book club is open to all. The moderator is Ric Gerace, a self-confessed compulsive book buyer and reader. The first syllabus focuses on World War I. If you are interested in joining, please call (508)540-0039, Email: staff@inkwellbookstore.com, or stop by the Inkwell in person. Book club members receive a 10% discount off the current reading selections. Visit www.inkwellbookstore.com to see the complete syllabus of reading selections.

MOSAIC BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 6:30 PM

King of the Cats

By Wil Haygood
Amistad Press, \$15.95

Mosaic meetings are held at the Gus Canty Rec Center. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion about world literature.

Put in your 2 Cents

The Inkwell now has a blog, and we encourage you to visit and add your voice to the conversation about books and authors. Your comments are welcome. The Inkwell staff’s daily posts keep you informed about the world of books with links to current articles and neat book related ideas we find online. You can access the blog by visiting our website (www.inkwellbookstore.com) and clicking the blog link, or type in the address www.inkwellbookstore.blogspot.com.



JAMIE CAT CALLAN'S
WORD OF THE WEEK
WRITERS' SALON
TUESDAYS, MAY 8, 15
6:15 - 8:15 PM

Only \$12.00 per workshop, and there's no commitment. Get your creative spirit moving again! Jamie Cat Callan leads a group of fun, local writers at the Inkwell. Come with 500 words (no more please!) based on the "Word of the Week" and you'll get encouragement, revision suggestions, publishing advice, laughter, and inspiration.



WORD OF THE WEEK

May 8 "sign", May 15 "lock",
May 22- No Meeting

May 29 - Wine/whine Workshop
(This is a submitting work to magazine night)
(Bring envelopes, stamps, stories, etc.)

We'll resume meeting in the fall.
HAPPY SUMMER!

For more information
Email Jamie at: JamieCatCallan@aol.com

What is
a Book Club?

By KATHLEEN THUT



It has probably not escaped your notice that there has been an enormous amount of press regarding the proliferation of book clubs. One would think these monthly meetings are recent phenomena; however there were numbers of women meeting to read and discuss books as early as the 1860s. These women were usually denied access to the traditional educational institutions and would get together to roll bandages for the war and read books to each other. Helen Hooven Santmyer used this exact premise in her bestselling novel, *And Ladies of the Club*, in which members of a book club struggle to understand themselves, one another, and the tumultuous world they lived in during the Civil War.

I propose that today we meet to enjoy a tuition-free intellectual discussion without the worries of cranky toddlers, stressful jobs and work needing to be done at home. We gather to engage in a rapport with a purpose not-so-thinly-disguised as a common book. I have been a member of a variety of book groups ranging from strictly author and book related to trying to focus on the book at hand for at least 10 minutes before chatting about any unrelated topic.

Whatever the reason you have joined or wish to join a book group, Inkwell can offer support. From the well-established to the fledgling book groups, Inkwell assists by: Giving a 10% on the current reading selection for any registered book group. Registration is as easy as filling out a short, one-page form; Maintaining a stock of titles you have chosen; Recommending titles for any genre in both hardcover and paperback.

WRITING FOR FUN OR MONEY

SATURDAYS, MAY 5, MAY 19
11:45 - 12:45 PM

Each workshop is \$10.00. Bring your sandwich and we will provide the coffee. Madeleine Felker leads the workshop which will give special attention and guidelines for those who wish to enter the National Writing Competition, and want to learn about query letters, copyright laws and the various kind of writings such as essays, feature stories, travel pieces or interviews. Registration is not required. The requested textbook is: *On Writing Well*, 30th ed. by William Zinsser. For more details call 508-540-4839 or email Madeleine at: madeleinefelker@comcast.net



INDEPENDENT WRITERS' CLUB

SATURDAYS, MAY 5, MAY 19
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

May 19th Keynote Speaker:

JAMES W. KERSHNER

Professor of Journalism
Cape Cod Community College
Author of



The Elements of News Writing

All writers are invited. *The Elements of News Writing* covers the basics of news writing with none of the extra verbiage that bogs down many textbooks. Features include: the basics of news writing, grammar, writing news stories, covering beats, specialized writing tips, editing newspapers, and other advanced news writing topics. Beginners as well as established authors are welcome. Occasionally prominent writers, editors, publishers and agents are invited as guest speaker. Guest speaker on June 16th - Gerree Trudeau, Arts and Entertainment Editor of the Falmouth Enterprise. For information,

HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

SATURDAYS, MAY 5, MAY 19
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

New members are welcome. The class will not only offer language instruction, but will look at the life and customs of this charming European country. Each class is \$12.00 or \$60.00 for 3 months. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. You may enroll at the Inkwell or call 508-540-4839 or email the teacher, Madeleine Felker at: madeleinefelker@comcast.net

HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN CLUB

FRIDAY, MAY 18

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

This club meets monthly on the third Friday at the Inkwell. The club's goal is to keep alive the Hungarian heritage, and to bring together Hungarians and any who are interested in the country's history, people, and customs. The club was founded last year by Mrs. Felker in the memory of the 1956 Hungarian revolution. Refreshments are served at the meeting. For more information, please email: hungarianclub@comcast.net



The World Outside Your Door

A monthly review column focusing on diversity in literature.

By CHARLOTTE McCANE

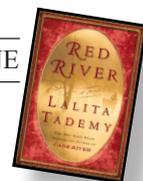
Red River

By Lalita Tademy

Warner, \$ 24.99

Red River is riveting historical fiction from the African-American perspective, the victims of a painful period and shameful episode in American history. The episode was the Easter Sunday, April 13, 1873 Colfax Massacre in Louisiana where more than one hundred African-American men were killed in a fight over voting rights given freed men during reconstruction.

The Tademy and Smith families deal with their loss and struggle to rebuild their legacy from 1873-1943. Both families of Colfax not only survived the oppression and brutality of post-civil war America, they prospered, confronted racism, amassed land, and built the first African-American school so that local African-American children could build themselves better lives. A compelling sequel to Tademy's acclaimed novel *Cane River*.



BACKGAMMON CLUB

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Informal club meets every Wednesday. All levels of experience welcome, and beginners will be taught the basics of game play.

CALLIGRAPHY CLUB

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 9, 23
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

This is a combination workshop and club. All levels of calligraphers are welcome. If you've always wanted to try calligraphy, here is your opportunity. The Calligraphy Club meets every other Wednesday.

IF THESE SHELVES COULD TALK

At a recent book club meeting, we talked about our bookshelves. Steve came up with the idea of taking pictures of our shelves and bringing them in to share at the next meeting. What a surprise it was! A person's bookshelves are very revealing...much can be gleaned from the organization and content of those shelves.

When you visit a person's home for the first time, are you drawn inexorably to their bookshelves? Without fail, we booksellers will browse the books of any home we visit, and will compulsively straighten and organize them if allowed!

Send the Inkwell a jpeg of your bookshelves to staff@inkwellbookstore.com
(or bring in a print), and the best (subjective) photo will be rewarded a \$10 Inkwell gift card.

Entries must be received by May 30, 2007. The winner will be announced on June 1st.

RambLings from the Book Nook

By CRISTIN CALI

A guilty pleasure makes a person feel slightly sheepish, embarrassed, and otherwise ashamed of so thoroughly enjoying something that is not exactly up to their standards of cool. I have guilty pleasures, as I'm sure you do. Blasting Prince in my car (particularly at a stoplight) is a perfect example of one of my guilty pleasures. I try to rationalize my guilty pleasures by reassuring myself that there are a number of more embarrassing things I could be doing, but I still blush when I notice that the person in the car next to me is shaking his head while he overhears Prince squealing some absurdly lusty lyrics out my front window.

I get the same way when I'm reading a book that I'm ashamed of enjoying. I remember feeling strange for enjoying the Babysitter's Club Series when I was in elementary school. I don't know why, as it was a very popular series among my fellow female classmates, but it just made me feel silly. I can't rationalize it. It's absolutely foolish on my part, yet there it is. My guilty pleasure.

I've recently picked up a novel entitled *Through A Glass Darkly*, and have discovered that it falls into the infamous category of guilty pleasures. The novel, by Karleen Koen, is a sweeping family drama set in the 1700s. This book, while engrossing in many respects, sometimes reads like a clichéd romance novel. It comes complete with the older man marrying a besotted young woman (about twenty something years his junior), then there's the overprotective matriarch, the dastardly,



lascivious suitors, the betrayals of wanton philanderers, unrequited love...there is even mention of duels! Geez! I'm surprised by this novel, because it can be very interesting at times and at others, wholly embarrassing to read. Despite that rather predictable set of characters, I can't help but continue to read on! I'm so shocked that I'm still invested in it, despite my misgivings and well...guilt for enjoying it.

Through A Glass Darkly puts me in mind of an even more absorbing novel called *Cashelmara* by Susan Howatch. Both novels are similar, in the sense that they examine the dichotomy between the life of the so-called common man and the more elite world of the aristocracy. Incidentally, *Cashelmara* also features a marriage between young woman and a much older man. The authors of both *Through A Glass Darkly* and *Cashelmara* seem to indulge in a rather dramatic, exaggerated portrayal of the relationships between people, and the conflicts that arise as a result of heartache, betrayal, lust, and all of that juicy junk that is just as easy to find in a ridiculous daytime soap opera.

Everyone deserves to eat junk food now and again. So go ahead and buy a box of bonbons, a carton of Kleenex, and prepare to go on a ride in a giant busload of shame, because if you ever feel the need to relax and dive into something outrageously and unabashedly entertaining, these books might just be the perfect way for you to satisfy your very own guilty pleasure.

NEW RELEASES

Week of MAY 14

Falling Man

By Don DeLillo, Scribner, \$26.00

Already gathering amazing advance press, *Falling Man* is a magnificent, essential novel about the event that defines turn-of-the-century America. It begins in the smoke and ash of the burning towers and tracks the aftermath of this global tremor in the intimate lives of a few people. These are lives choreographed by loss, grief and the enormous force of history. It is cathartic, beautiful, heartbreaking.



Week of MAY 22

A Thousand Splendid Suns

By Khaled Hosseini

Riverhead, \$25.95

After 103 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and with four million copies of *The Kite Runner* shipped, Khaled Hosseini returns with a beautiful, riveting, and haunting novel that confirms his place as one of the most important literary writers today.



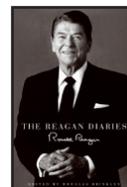
The Reagan Diaries

By Ronald Reagan,

Douglas Brinkley

HarperCollins, \$35.00

During his two terms as the fortieth president of the United States, Ronald Reagan kept a daily diary in which he recorded, by hand, his innermost thoughts and observations on the extraordinary, the historic, and the routine day-to-day occurrences of his presidency. Now, nearly two decades after he left office, this remarkable record, the only daily presidential diary in American history, is available for the first time.



The QUILL Newsletter

The Inkwell Bookstore

199 Main Street

Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

TO:

