



## THE BOOK NOOK

### New Arrivals

(an eclectic assortment)

#### **Tara Westover, Julia Whelan, et al, *Educated* (Memoir)**

#1 NEW YORK TIMES, WALL STREET JOURNAL, AND BOSTON

GLOBE BESTSELLER “One of the most acclaimed books of our time: an unforgettable memoir about a young woman who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University”

“Extraordinary . . . an act of courage and self-invention.” (*The New York Times*)

“Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara’s older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she’d traveled too far, if there was still a way home.”

“Beautiful and propulsive . . . Despite the singularity of [Westover’s] childhood, the questions her book poses are universal: How much of ourselves should we give to those we love? And how much must we betray them to grow up?” (*Vogue*)

#### **Asifa Kanji and David Drury, *Three Hundred Cups of Tea, and The Toughest Job You’ll Ever Love: Riding the Peace Corps Rollercoaster in Mali, West Africa* (Memoir)**

“Told with humor and compassion, these side-by-side memoirs take you on a 14 month journey of life in the Sahel. When David and Asifa said yes to serving with the Peace Corps in Mali, little did they know they were stepping onto a rollercoaster that would test their endurance, their creativity and patience. At age 60 and 57 they found themselves on the shore of the great Sahara Desert, posted to one of the hottest and poorest parts of Africa. She took up the fight against malnutrition, with a campaign to cultivate the nourishing Moringa tree; he worked with a radio station and cybercafé that cultivated values of democracy and religious toleration. They found love in a hopeless place, a place that challenged them to look again at friendship, family, and development with fresh eyes.”

#### **Flory A. Van Beek, *Flory: A Miraculous Story of Survival* (memoir)**

“Like Anne Frank, Flory Van Beek was a young girl caught in the ruthless Nazi occupation of Holland—but Flory survived to recount her extraordinary story of persecution and survival. Flory and her husband, Felix, endured the sinking of a ship bound for safety in the New World, the increasing danger of the occupation, and finally a life in hiding. There, cut off from the outside world and their families, they faced the hunger and stress of

daily life in confined quarters along with the ever-present threat of discovery and certain death. This inspiring account vividly captures the terror of the Holocaust while telling a poignant story of love and courage.”

**A.B. Facey, *A Fortunate Life* (autobiography)**

“A true classic of Australian literature, Facey’s simply penned story offers a unique window onto the history of Australian life through the greater part of the twentieth century—the extraordinary journey of an ordinary man.”

“Born in 1894, and first sent to work at the age of eight, Facey lived the rough frontier life of a labourer and farmer and jackaroo, becoming lost and then rescued by Indigenous trackers, then gaining a hard-won literacy, surviving Gallipoli, raising a family through the Depression, losing a son in the Second World War, and meeting his beloved Evelyn with whom he shared nearly sixty years of marriage. Despite enduring unimaginable hardships, Facey always saw his life as a fortunate one.”

**Mark Ellison, *Building: A Carpenter’s Notes on Life & the Art of Good Work* (autobiography)**

“A visionary carpenter shares meditations on work, creativity, and design, revealing powerful lessons on building a meaningful life through his experience constructing some of New York’s most iconic spaces.”

“This tells the story of an unconventional education and how fulfillment can be found in doing something well for decades. Ellison takes us on a tour of the lofts, penthouses, and townhomes of New York’s elite, before they’re camera-ready. In a singular voice, he offers a window into learning to live meaningfully along the way. From staircases that would be deadly if built as designed and algae-eating snails boiled to escargot in a penthouse pond, to the deceptive complexity of minimalist design, *Building* exposes the tangled wiring, scrapped blueprints, and outlandish demands that characterize life in the high-stakes world of luxury construction.

Blending Ellison’s musings on work and creativity with immersive storytelling, original sketches, and illustrations, *Building* is a meditation on crafting a life worth living, and a delightful philosophical inquiry beyond the facades that we all live behind.”

**Louis de Bernieres, *Birds without Wings* (fiction)**

Louis de Bernières’s last novel, *Corelli’s Mandolin*, was met with the highest praise:

“Behind every page,” said Richard Russo, “we sense its author’s intelligence, wit, heart, imagination, and wisdom. This is a great book.” A. S. Byatt placed the author in “the direct line that runs through Dickens and Evelyn Waugh.” “Now, de Bernières gives us his long-awaited new novel. Huge, resonant, lyrical, filled with humor and pathos, a novel about the political and personal costs of war, and of love—between men and women, between friends, between those who are driven to be enemies.

Set against the backdrop of the collapsing Ottoman Empire, the Gallipoli campaign and the subsequent bitter struggle between Greeks and Turks, *Birds Without Wings* traces the fortunes of one small community in south-west Anatolia—a town in which Christian and Muslim lives and traditions have co-existed peacefully for centuries. When war is

declared and the outside world intrudes, the twin scourges of religion and nationalism lead to forced marches and massacres, and the peaceful fabric of life is destroyed. Philothei, a Christian girl of legendary beauty, and Ibrahim the Goatherd who has courted her since infancy are but two of the many casualties. With the end of a community that once transcended religious differences, their great love seems destined to end in tragedy and madness..."

**Louise Erdrich, *The Master Butcher's Singing Club* (fiction)**

"From National Book Award-winning, New York Times-bestselling author Louise Erdrich, a profound and enchanting new novel: a richly imagined world 'where butchers sing like angels.'"

"Having survived World War I, Fidelis Waldvogel returns to his quiet German village and marries the pregnant widow of his best friend, killed in action. With a suitcase full of sausages and a master butcher's precious knife set, Fidelis sets out for America. In Argus, North Dakota, he builds a business, a home for his family—which includes Eva and four sons—and a singing club consisting of the best voices in town. When the Old World meets the New—in the person of Delphine Watzka—the great adventure of Fidelis's life begins. Delphine meets Eva and is enchanted. She meets Fidelis, and the ground trembles. These momentous encounters will determine the course of Delphine's life, and the trajectory of this brilliant novel."

**Lana Kortschik, *Daughters of the Resistance* (fiction)**

USA Today bestseller

"Ukraine, 1943

On a train from Ukraine to Germany, Lisa Smirnova is terrified for her life. The train is under Nazi command, heading for one of Hitler's rumoured labour camps. As she is taken away from everything she holds dear, Lisa wonders if she will ever see her family again.

In Nazi-occupied Kiev, Irina Antonova knows she could be arrested at any moment. Trapped in a job registering the endless deaths of the people of Kiev, she risks her life every day by secretly helping her neighbours, while her husband has joined the Soviet partisans, who are carrying out life-threatening work to frustrate the German efforts.

When Lisa's train is intercepted by the partisans, Irina's husband among them, these women's lives will take an unimaginable turn. As Irina fights to protect her family and Lisa is forced to confront the horrors of war, together they must make an impossible decision: what would they be willing to lose to save the people they love?"

**Khaled Hosseini, *And the Mountains Echoed* (fiction)**

"An unforgettable novel about finding a lost piece of yourself in someone else."

"Khaled Hosseini, the #1 New York Times-bestselling author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, has written this new novel about how we love, how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations. In this tale revolving around not just parents and children but brothers and sisters, cousins and caretakers, Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of

those closest to us, at the times that matter most. Following its characters and the ramifications of their lives and choices and loves around the globe—from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek island of Tinos—the story expands gradually outward, becoming more emotionally complex and powerful with each turning page.”

**Robert Alexander, *Rasputin’s Daughter* (fiction)**

“For readers who like their juicy scandals topped with a hearty dollop of history, Alexander serves up a satisfying portrait of a court in its last throes of decadence and intrigue.” (*The Washington Post*)

“From the author of the national bestseller *The Kitchen Boy* comes a gripping historical novel about imperial Russia’s most notorious figure. Called brilliant by *USA Today*, Robert Alexander’s historical novel *The Kitchen Boy* swept readers back to the doomed world of the Romanovs. His latest masterpiece once again conjures those turbulent days in a fictional drama of extraordinary depth and suspense. In the wake of the Russian Revolution, Maria Rasputin, eldest of the Rasputin children, recounts her infamous father’s final days, building a breathless narrative of intrigue, excess, and conspiracy that reveals the shocking truth of her father’s end and the identity of those who arranged it. What emerges is a nail-biting, richly textured new take on one of history’s most legendary episodes.

**Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence* (fiction)**

“Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edith Wharton, this is a classic love story set in late 19th century New York City. It tells the story of Newland Archer, a young lawyer, and his struggle between his arranged marriage to a beautiful but conventional woman and his passionate love for her cousin, the scandalous Countess Ellen Olenska. This novel explores the complexities of life in a society bound by rigid rules and expectations. Through the eyes of Newland Archer, readers gain insight into the hypocrisy, snobbery, and pretense of the Gilded Age. *The Age of Innocence* is a timeless classic that provides an honest, humorous, and often painful look at the human condition.” (Do see also the 1993 Martin Scorsese film starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, Winona Ryder, and Miriam Margolyes.)

**Serena Burdick, *The Girls with No Names* (fiction)**

INSTANT INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

“Burdick has spun a cautionary tale of struggle and survival, love and family—and above all, the strength of the heart, no matter how broken.” (*New York Times Book Review*)

“A beautiful tale of hope, courage, and sisterhood—inspired by the real House of Mercy and the girls confined there for daring to break the rules.

Growing up in New York City in the 1910s, Luella and Effie Tildon realize that even as wealthy young women, their freedoms come with limits. But when the sisters discover a shocking secret about their father, Luella, the brazen elder sister, becomes emboldened to do as she pleases. Her rebellion comes with consequences, and one morning Luella is mysteriously gone.

Effie suspects her father has sent Luella to the House of Mercy and hatches a plan to get herself committed to save her sister. But she made a miscalculation, and with no one to believe her story, Effie's own escape seems impossible—unless she can trust an enigmatic girl named Mable. As their fates entwine, Mable and Effie must rely on their tenuous friendship to survive."

**Karen Thompson Walker, *The Dreamers* (fiction)**

NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW EDITORS' CHOICE • An ordinary town is transformed by a mysterious illness that triggers perpetual sleep in this mesmerizing novel from the bestselling author of *The Age of Miracles*.

"Stunning." (Emily St. John Mandel, author of *Station Eleven*) • "A startling, beautiful portrait of a community in peril." (*Entertainment Weekly*)

"Written in luminous prose, *The Dreamers* is a breathtaking and beautiful novel, startling and provocative, about the possibilities contained within a human life—if only we are awakened to them.

One night in an isolated college town in the hills of Southern California, a first-year student stumbles into her dorm room, falls asleep—and doesn't wake up. She sleeps through the morning, into the evening. Her roommate, Mei, cannot rouse her. Neither can the paramedics, nor the perplexed doctors at the hospital. When a second girl falls asleep, and then a third, Mei finds herself thrust together with an eccentric classmate as panic takes hold of the college and spreads to the town. A young couple tries to protect their newborn baby as the once-quiet streets descend into chaos. Two sisters turn to each other for comfort as their survivalist father prepares for disaster."

**Omar El Akkad, *What Strange Paradise* (fiction)**

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR

"From the widely acclaimed, bestselling author of *American War*—a beautifully written, unrelentingly dramatic, and profoundly moving novel that looks at the global refugee crisis through the eyes of a child."

"Told from the point of view of two children, on the ground and at sea, the story so astutely unpacks the us-versus-them dynamics of our divided world that it deserves to be an instant classic." (*The New York Times Book Review*)

"More bodies have washed up on the shores of a small island. Another overfilled, ill-equipped, dilapidated ship has sunk under the weight of its too many passengers: Syrians, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Lebanese, Palestinians, all of them desperate to escape untenable lives back in their homelands. But miraculously, someone has survived the passage: nine-year-old Amir, a Syrian boy who is soon rescued by Vänna. Vänna is a teenage girl, who, despite being native to the island, experiences her own sense of homelessness in a place and among people she has come to disdain. And though Vänna and Amir are complete strangers, though they don't speak a common language, Vänna is determined to do whatever it takes to save the boy.

In alternating chapters, we learn about Amir's life and how he came to be on the boat, and we follow him and the girl as they make their way toward safety. *What Strange Paradise* is the story of two children finding their way through a hostile world. But it is also

a story of empathy and indifference, of hope and despair—and about the way each of those things can blind us to reality.”

**Hermann Hesse, *Steppenwolf* (fiction)**

“With its blend of Eastern mysticism and Western culture, Hesse's best-known and most autobiographical work is one of literature's most poetic evocations of the soul's journey to liberation.”

“Harry Haller is a sad and lonely figure, a reclusive intellectual for whom life holds no joy. He struggles to reconcile the wild primeval wolf and the rational man within himself without surrendering to the bourgeois values he despises. His life changes dramatically when he meets a woman who is his opposite, the carefree and elusive Hermine.

Originally published in English in 1929, *Steppenwolf*'s wisdom continues to speak to our souls and marks it as a classic of modern literature.”

**Patrick Taylor, *An Irish Country Courtship* (#5 of 16 Irish Country novels)**

Set in the 1960s, this gentle slice-of-life novel is the fifth in a series about life in the colorful Ulster village of Ballybucklebo. The only doctor in town, Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly, is looking for a partner and welcomes younger doctor Barry Laverty into his home and his practice. After being suddenly and publicly dumped by his girlfriend of a few months, Laverty is unsure if he wants to stay in the small town. Trying to convince him to stay, O'Reilly involves Laverty in various town intrigues, including a complicated horse-betting swindle being run by a local politician on a group of tradesmen. At the same time, the widowed O'Reilly attempts to rekindle a romance from his youth. O'Reilly's stoic, painful attempt to build a new life for himself contrasts sharply with Laverty and his excessive whining about the breakup of a relatively short-term relationship. The town is stocked with a Hollywood-worthy cast of supporting characters, including busybodies, eccentrics, and a beautiful schoolteacher. Appendixes include a glossary for readers not familiar with Gaelic slang and recipes for dishes made in the book.” (Marta Segal Block, *Booklist*)

**Patrick Taylor, *A Dublin Student Doctor* (#6 of 16 Irish Country novels)**

“Devoted readers of Patrick Taylor's Irish Country novels know Doctor Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly as a pugnacious general practitioner in the quaint Irish village of Ballybucklebo. Now, in *A Dublin Student Doctor*, Taylor turns back the clock to give us a portrait of the young Fingal—and show us the pivotal events that shaped the man he would become. In the 1930s, fresh from a stint in the Royal Navy Reserve, and against the wishes of his disapproving father, Fingal O'Reilly goes to Dublin to study medicine. Fingal and his fellow aspiring doctors face the arduous demands of Trinity College and Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital. The hours are long and the cases challenging, but Fingal manages to find time to box and play rugby—and to romance a fetching, gray-eyed nurse named Kitty O'Hallorhan.”

**Catriona McPherson, *A Step So Grave* (mystery, #13 in a series of 15)**

"A British cozy set in the Thirties and told with tongue-in-cheek humor along the lines of John Mortimer or PG Wodehouse...written for readers who enjoy light, humorous, cozy

mysteries with a healthy bit of family drama." (Historical Novel Society)

"Wedding bells are set to ring as Dandy Gilver, family in tow, arrives in windswept Wester Ross, Scotland, on Valentine's Day. They've come to celebrate Lady Lavinia's fiftieth birthday and to meet her daughter Mallory, a less-than-suitable bride-to-be for Dandy's son Donald.

But soon love is the last thing on Dandy's mind when the news breaks that Lady Lavinia has been found dead, brutally murdered in the middle of her famous knot garden. Strange superstitions and folklore abound among the Gaelic-speaking locals. But Dandy suspects that the tangled boughs and branches around Applecross House hide something much more earthly at work . . ."

**Orson Scott Card and Aaron Johnston, *Invasive Procedures* (near-future medical thriller)**

"George Galen is a brilliant scientist, a pioneer in gene therapy. But Galen is dangerously insane—he has created a method to alter human DNA, not just to heal diseases, but to 'improve' people—make them stronger, make them able to heal more quickly, and make them compliant to his will.

Frank Hartman is also a brilliant virologist, working for the government's ultra-secret bio-hazard agency. He has discovered how to neutralize Galen's DNA-changing virus, making him the one man who stands in the way of Galen's plan to 'improve' the entire human race.

This taut thriller takes the reader a few years into the future, and shows the promise and danger of new genetic medicine techniques."

**Neil Donald Walsch, *The New Revelations: A Conversation with God* (part of 10 book *Conversations with God* series) (spiritual)**

"This is a life-altering book. It contains New Revelations. It provides the tools with which to pull ourselves out of despair, lifting the whole human race to a new level of experience, to a new understanding of life itself, to a new expression of its grandest vision.

Neale Donald Walsch believes that the human race has reached a Time of Choosing. Our options are being placed before us by the tide of events—and by those who are creating them. We can either move forward, building together at last a new world of peace and harmony based on new beliefs about God and Life, or move backward, separately and continuously reconstructing the old world of conflict and discord.

In *The New Revelations*, bestselling author Walsch offers possible and powerful answers to the questions facing the world, and urges us to open our hearts and minds to what may be one of the most important spiritual statements of our time."

**Mary J. Shomon, *The Thyroid Diet: Manage Your Metabolism for Lasting Weight Loss* (medical self-help)**

"From patient advocate Mary Shomon, author of *Living Well With Hypothyroidism*, here is the first book to tackle the weight factors specific to thyroid patients and detail a conventional and alternative plan for lasting weight loss.

*The Thyroid Diet* will identify the factors that inhibit a thyroid patient's ability to lose weight, and offer solutions—both conventional and alternative—to help. It will

discuss optimal dietary changes, including how a thyroid sufferer should focus on a low-glycemic, high-fibre, low-calorie diet, eaten as smaller, more frequent meals to balance blood sugar. *The Thyroid Diet* addresses the use of various herbs, nutritional supplements, and prescription weight loss drugs, outlining the necessity of exercise, and drawing together all information into an integrated diet and exercise plan. It contains several different eating plans, food lists, and a set of delicious and healthy gourmet recipes. With handy worksheets to use in weight loss tracking, and a special resource section featuring websites, books, and support groups, here is vital help for the millions of thyroid patients dealing with weight problems.

**James Vincent, *Beyond Measure: The Hidden History of Measurement from Cubits to Quantum Constants* (nonfiction)**

Finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Science & Technology

One of *The New Yorker* and *Economist's* Best Books of the Year

"Quietly thrilling.... The story of humans measuring things is no less than the story of civilization." (Jennifer Szalai, *New York Times Book Review*)

"A vibrant account of how measurement has invisibly shaped our world, from ancient civilizations to the modern day. From the cubit to the kilogram, the humble inch to the speed of light, measurement is a powerful tool that humans invented to make sense of the world. In this revelatory work of science and social history, James Vincent dives into its hidden world, taking readers from ancient Egypt, where measuring the annual depth of the Nile was an essential task, to the intellectual origins of the metric system in the French Revolution, and from the surprisingly animated rivalry between metric and imperial, to our current age of the 'quantified self.' At every turn, Vincent is keenly attuned to the political consequences of measurement, exploring how it has also been used as a tool for oppression and control.

*Beyond Measure* reveals how measurement is not only deeply entwined with our experience of the world, but also how its history encompasses and shapes the human quest for knowledge."

**National Geographic Society, *Greece and Rome: Builders of Our World* (nonfiction)**

"When I was in 6th-7th grade this book started me on a lifelong love of classical history. The photography and artwork are first rate and the writing really communicates the authors' love of the material. I went to public schools and there was never a mention of ancient Greek or Roman civilization in the course of 12 years' instruction. After reading this, in 7th grade I pulled *The Aeneid* off the shelf at the school library and read it, then a biography of Alexander the Great, and I haven't been able to stop since!"

**David Helvarg, *The Golden Shore: California's Love Affair with the Sea* (nonfiction)**

"From the first human settlements to the latest marine explorations, *The Golden Shore* tells the tale of the history, culture, and changing nature of California's coasts and ocean.

David Helvarg takes the reader on both a geographic and literary journey along the state's 1,100-mile Pacific coastline, from the Oregon border to the San Diego/ Tijuana international border fence and out into its whale-, seal-, and shark-rich offshore



seamounts, rock isles, and kelp forests. Part history, part travelogue, part love letter, *The Golden Shore* captures the spirit of the California coast and its mythic place in American culture."

**David Helvarg, *50 Ways to Save the Ocean: Inner Ocean Action Guide* (nonfiction)**

"The oceans, and the challenges they face, are so vast that it's easy to feel powerless to protect them. *50 Ways to Save the Ocean*, written by veteran environmental journalist David Helvarg, focuses on practical, easily-implemented actions everyone can take to protect and conserve this vital resource. Well-researched, personal, and sometimes whimsical, the book addresses daily choices that affect the ocean's health: what fish should and should not be eaten; how and where to vacation; storm drains and driveway run-off; protecting local water tables; proper diving, surfing, and tide pool etiquette; and supporting local marine education. Helvarg also looks at what can be done to stir the waters of seemingly daunting issues such as toxic pollutant runoff; protecting wetlands and sanctuaries; keeping oil rigs off shore; saving reef environments; and replenishing fish reserves."

**Ben Wilson, *Dolphins of the World* (nonfiction)**

"This top-selling series introduces the wild creatures of the world and examines the natural world. Good general introductions for ages 10+, these volumes contain the knowledge, personal experiences, and research of leading naturalists and scientists, accompanied by stunning photography."

**David George Gordon, *Seals and Sea Lions* (nonfiction)**

"This concise book is filled with factual information and excellent photographs of this interesting group of marine mammals. It is recommended for those interested in a brief overview of the group at all levels. (*Bulletin of Marine Science*)

A former science writer for Washington Sea Grant in Seattle, David George Gordon is the principal author of *Heaven on the Half Shell: The Story of the Oyster in the Pacific Northwest*, revised and updated by University of Washington Press. He has written 22 books on topics ranging from slugs and snails to cockroaches, sharks, gray whales, and the Sasquatch.

**Carole and Phil Adams, *Friends of the Elephant Seal, Elephant Seals: A Comprehensive Guide* (nonfiction)**

"Easy to read and informative, this classic book by Carole and Phil Adams details the life cycle of the Northern Elephant Seal and the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery. A wonderful gift for travelers and trusted reference for teachers and students."

**Dale Brown, Time Life Books, *Wild Alaska: The American Wilderness* (nonfiction)**

"Author Dale Brown made three trips to Alaska in preparation of this book. The opening chapter describes the geography, geology, and climate of Alaska. Chapter Two features Glacier Bay National Park; plant succession is a major topic of this chapter. In Chapter Three we learn about the geology, botany, and wildlife of Katmai National Park. The

ecology of Denali National Park is the subject of Chapter Four. In Chapter Five the author shares with us his journal entries written during his trek through the vast Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The book concludes with a consideration of the challenges facing the Alaskan wilderness such as pollution and the tapping of natural gas and oil reserves. Bears, Dall sheep, caribou, wolves, and mountain goats are among the many animals featured in both text and photographs. A detailed map accompanies each chapter. Thus, *Wild Alaska* focuses on four representative areas of this awe-inspiring state and is one of the most impressive books in this series. The fascinating narrative and numerous photographs make this an excellent book about one of the most majestic places found in the American wilderness."