



# INTERNATIONAL BOOKS

COMPILED BY SUZANNE GARDNER

## Fiction

Popular storyteller John Irving returns to the literary scene this season with his 12th novel, *Last Night in Twisted River* (Knopf Canada, \$37 cl., Oct.). The story, which spans five decades, concerns a 12-year-old boy and his father, who become lifetime fugitives in the backwoods of the northern United States. • Now in his 78th year, Philip Roth shows no signs of slowing down. His latest novel, *The Humbling* (Penguin Canada, \$30 cl., Nov.), tells the story of an elderly American stage actor confronting a loss of talent and confidence.

Barbara Kingsolver's newest, *The Lacuna* (HarperCollins Canada, \$34.99 cl., Oct.), examines the power of language and the written word to create a sense of self. • The scene is Istanbul, 1975, and the protagonist of Orhan Pamuk's *The Museum of Innocence* (Knopf Canada, \$34.95 cl., Oct.) is an engaged man who finds himself passionately attracted to a young shopgirl. • After previously tackling such major world cities as London and Dublin, historical novelist Edward Rutherfurd traces the history of the Big Apple through the eyes of seven families in New York (Doubleday Canada, \$39.95 cl., Nov.).

New York Times best-selling author Philippa Gregory has a new historical novel out in September. *The White Queen* (Simon & Schuster, \$34 cl.) is the first book in her planned War of the Roses series, depicting

the 15th-century English civil war between the houses of York and Lancaster. • Jeanette Walls, author of the best-selling 2005 memoir *The Glass Castle*, has shifted formats with a biographical novel written in the voice of her grandmother. *Half Broke Horses* (S&S, \$32.99 cl.) hits bookstores in October.

*Twenties Girl* (Random House, \$32 cl., July) is the latest bit of charming fluff from chick-lit queen Sophie Kinsella. The book is a "girlie ghost story" that tells the tale of a twentysomething woman who is visited by the spirit of her great-aunt. • Audrey Niffenegger picks up the ghost-story theme in her follow-up to the soon-to-be-a-feature-film *The Time Traveler's Wife*. In *Her Fearful Symmetry* (Knopf Canada, \$34.95 cl., Oct.), identical twins are haunted by their dead aunt after they move into the deceased woman's London flat.

The latest novel from pop-culture connoisseur Nick Hornby is a tale of messed-up love, all-consuming loneliness, and damn good music. *Juliet, Naked* (Riverhead Books/Penguin, \$32.50 cl.) arrives in bookstores in September. • Fresh off his National Book Award win for *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie delivers a new collection of short stories that explores the careful balance between self-preservation and external responsibility in *War Dances* (Grove Press/Publishers Group Canada, \$32 cl., Oct.).

Arguably the quirkiest title this season is the English translation of Rieko Matsuura's

*The Apprenticeship of Big Toe P* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, \$35.95 cl., Oct.), the coming-of-age story of a young Japanese woman who awakes to discover that her big toe has turned into a penis. When her homophobic fiancé tries to castrate her toe, she runs away to join the circus.

Anne Rice returns to her horror-fantasy roots in *Angel Time* (Knopf Canada, \$35 cl., Oct.), the story of a contract killer who is mysteriously transported to 13th-century England on a mission to save lives rather than destroy them. • Also in the horror-fantasy vein is *Dracula: The Un-Dead* (Viking Canada, \$34 cl., Oct.), the first *Dracula* sequel endorsed by the Stoker family. Written by Dacre Stoker, the great-grandnephew of Bram Stoker, and Ian Holt, a noted *Dracula* historian, the novel is set 25 years after the events of the original.

*And Another Thing...* (Viking Canada, \$32 cl., Oct.) is the sixth novel in the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* trilogy (yes, that's part six of three). Eight years after the death of creator Douglas Adams, best-selling children's author Eoin Colfer will continue the beloved series. • In Stephen King's new novel, a Maine town is suddenly sealed beneath an impenetrable dome that isolates its citizens from the world. *Under the Dome* (S&S, \$45 cl.) will be published in November. • Michael Crichton's posthumously published *Pirate Latitudes* (HarperCollins Canada, \$35.99 cl., Nov.) is a washbuckling tale of pirates in 17th-century Jamaica.

## Politics and current affairs

Hundreds of pro-Obama posters were collected at [designforobama.org](http://designforobama.org) during the current president's road to the White House. In *Design for Obama* (Taschen, \$32.99 cl., Nov.), author Steven Heller and editors Spike Lee and Aaron Perry-Zucker have chosen the best of those posters to document one of the most inspirational political campaigns in American history. • Outspoken former U.S. vice-president Al Gore's latest call to action is *Our Choice* (Random House Canada, \$29.95 pa., Nov.), which argues that saving the earth's climate should also lead to new job creation and sustainable economic growth.

*Stones Into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs*, in Afghanistan and Pak-

istan (Viking, \$32.50 cl., Dec.) is a first-person narrative from Greg Mortenson, author of 2006's *Three Cups of Tea*. The new book picks up where the previous one left off, detailing Mortenson's efforts to establish schools for girls in the Middle East. • Joe Sacco, the cartoonist widely hailed as the creator of war-reportage comics, is back with another work of graphic journalism with *Footnotes in Gaza* (Metropolitan Books/H.B. Fenn and Company, \$32 cl., Dec.).

## Social studies

*Fast Food Nation* author Eric Schlosser shifts focus from hamburgers to the H-bomb in *Command and Control* (Penguin, \$33.50 cl., Oct.), which takes readers inside nuclear

weapons labs, missile silos, and the cockpits of B-52 bombers, to examine the nuclear near-misses of the past 60 years. • *Freedom: A Collection of Short Stories Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (Key Porter Books, \$19.95 pa., Sept.) is an anthology from Amnesty International featuring stories by Chuck Palahniuk, Paulo Coelho, and Yann Martel, as well as an introduction by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Dennis Baron's *A Better Pencil: Readers, Writers, and the Digital Revolution* (Oxford University Press, \$27.95 cl., Oct.) explores the history of writing technologies and their complex relationship with the actual act of writing. • In a followup to his 1969 classic *The Making of a Counter Culture*, Theodore Roszak takes a second look at the boomer generation in *The Making of an Elder Culture: Reflections on the Future of America's Most Audacious Generation* (New Society, \$18.95 pa., Sept.).

## Biography and memoir

Pomegranates seem to have displaced mangoes as the literary fruit du jour, at least in the realm of mother-daughter memoirs. Sue Monk Kidd (author of the best-selling novel *The Secret Life of Bees*) and daughter Ann Kidd Taylor team up for *Traveling with Pomegranates: A Mother-Daughter Story* (Viking, \$32.50 cl., Sept.), while Sarah Gabriel pens *Eating Pomegranates: A Memoir of Mothers, Daughters and Genes* (Doubleday Canada, \$29.95 cl., Oct.), about her struggle to deal with the genetic legacy of breast cancer.

Mitch Albom returns with another memoir of spiritual growth. The Oprah favourite's future bestseller, *Have a Little Faith* (Hyperion/HarperCollins, \$23.99 cl., Sept.), chronicles Albom's search for the right words to eulogize a rabbi. • Tennis star Andre Agassi writes about what he knows best in *Open: A Self Portrait* (Random House, \$34 cl., Nov.), the athlete's first autobiography.

William Wallace, an internationally recognized authority on Michelangelo, paints a portrait of life in Renaissance Florence and Rome in *Michelangelo: The Artist, the Man, and His Times* (Cambridge University Press, \$35.95 cl., Oct.). • Pierre Assouline looks at the man behind the pencil in *Hergé: The Man Who*



## WORRYING THE WARLORDS

At only 30 years of age, Malalai Joya has been called the "bravest woman in Afghanistan." In her new book, *A Woman Among Warlords: The Extraordinary Story of an Afghan Who Dared to Raise Her Voice* (Simon & Schuster, \$32.99 cl., Oct.), Joya tells her life story, beginning with her childhood in refugee camps in Iran and Pakistan. In 2003, Joya was elected to Afghanistan's constitutional assembly, and in 2005 she became the youngest person elected to the nation's new parliament. Due to her regular denunciation of the country's warlords, Joya was suspended from her political post in 2007, but she continues to inspire young women with her staunch commitment to changing the world.

Created Tintin (OUP, \$33.95 cl., Dec.). Translated by Charles Ruas, it is the first full-length bio of Hergé to be published in English.

## Health, lifestyle, and self-help

Jonny Bowden examines what he calls the “Four Horsemen of Aging” – free radicals, inflammation, glycation, and stress – in *The Most Effective Ways to Live Longer* (Fair Winds Press/Canadian Manda Group, \$31.99 pa., Dec.). • Following the success of his *I Can Make You Thin*, Paul McKenna’s *I Can Make You Sleep: Overcome Insomnia Forever and Get the Best Rest of Your Life* (Sterling Publishing/Manda, \$29.95 cl., Sept.) reveals the secrets of getting regular, deep, and refreshing sleep. The book comes with an audio CD designed to reset your body’s natural sleep mechanism.

After shaking up the world of diet books with *French Women Don’t Get Fat*, Mireille Guiliano returns with more advice for the ladies in *Women, Work, and the Art of Savoir Faire* (S&S, \$32.99 cl., Oct.). • According to editors Cecile Andrews and Wanda Urbanska, a life stripped of excess clutter, debt, and work opens the door to a more satisfying existence. *Less Is More: Embracing Simplicity for a Healthy Planet, a Caring Economy and Lasting Happiness* (New Society, \$16.95 pa., Sept.) is an anthology of essays from leaders of the simplicity movement.

## Food and cooking

King of the F-bomb Gordon Ramsay teams up with Jason Atherton, head chef at Ramsay’s innovative restaurant Maze, to teach readers how to prepare the restaurant’s best recipes at home in *Gordon Ramsay’s Maze* (Key Porter, \$35 cl., Sept.). • Alton Brown, host of the popular Food Network program *Good Eats*, chronicles the TV show’s ongoing look at the science behind food preparation in *Good Eats: The Early Years* (Stewart, Tabori & Chang/Manda, \$48.95 cl., Oct.).

Chef Tal Ronnen became one of today’s most celebrated vegan chefs after he prepared meals for Oprah’s 21-day vegan cleanse. In *The Conscious Cook* (HarperCollins, \$38.99 cl., Oct.), Ronnen sets out to prove that you

don’t have to sacrifice taste when sacrificing meat and dairy. • Meanwhile, health nut Terry Walters teaches readers how to eat vegan and local in *Clean Food: A Seasonal Guide to Eating Close to the Source* (Sterling/Manda, \$35 cl., Sept.).

## Business

Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner have upgraded from *Freakonomics* to *Super-Freakonomics* (HarperCollins Canada, \$36.99 cl., Nov.), an even bigger, more provocative challenge to conventional economic thinking. • In *Innovate the Pixar Way: Secrets from the World’s Most Creative Company* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson, \$27.95 cl., Dec.), Bill Capodagli and Lynn Jackson introduce the formula for

unleashing the Pixar magic in any organization. • Grant McCracken urges corporations to keep tabs on cultural trends in *Chief Cultural Officer* (Basic Books/PGC, \$31 cl., Dec.).

## Science and nature

*The Snow Tourist: A Search for the World’s Purest, Deepest Snowfall* (Counterpoint/PGC, \$22.50 pa., Nov.) documents British writer Charlie English’s chilly quest for the best snow on Earth. • Evolutionary biologist and general pot-stirrer Richard Dawkins follows up *The God Delusion* with *The Greatest Show on Earth* (S&S, \$39.99 cl., Sept.). Dawkins lays out scientific support for the theory of evolution with his characteristically arrogant flair. □

## REAL WILD CHILD

Author and McSweeney’s editor Dave Eggers is working hard to promote the upcoming film adaptation of Maurice Sendak’s beloved picture book *Where the Wild Things Are*, which he co-wrote with director Spike Jonze. This fall, he’ll also be promoting *The Wild Things* (McSweeney’s/Publishers Group Canada, \$27.95 cl.), his novel-length retelling of the story of Max, a boy who runs away into the woods, boards a boat, and lands on an island of weird and wonderful creatures. The book is due out in October, to coincide with the release of the film. Given Eggers’ popularity and the film’s pre-release buzz, it may well be a hit.

