

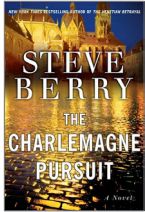
DECEMBER '08



NOTABLES



FICTION



The Charlemagne Pursuit

by Steve Berry

(Ballantine, \$26, 9780345485793/0345485793)

"I could not put down Berry's story of a nuclear submarine accident and a Nazi plot. This was one of the most intelligent novels I have read this year. Steve Berry is in a league that very few writers share."

—George Scott, Eagle Eye Book Shop, Decatur, GA



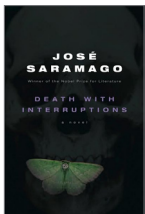
Fault Lines

by Nancy Huston

(Grove Press, Black Cat, \$14 paper, 9780802170514/080217051X)

"I was absolutely blown away by Huston's novel, which extends from the present to 1944 Germany. She deals with horrendous issues, but the beauty of the story is in how Huston tells it, through the eyes of innocent children."

—Peggy Walker, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, Brookfield, WI



Death With Interruptions

by Jose Saramago

(Harcourt, \$24, 9780151012749/0151012741)

"This witty and deeply moving story begins one day when people stop dying. The series of events that follow are perfectly believable—including complaints to the government from funeral directors reduced to pet burials. Nobel laureate Saramago has written a novel that exposes the insanities of modern life while showing us the essence of what makes it

all worthwhile. Truly a modern classic."

—Bob Sommer, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ



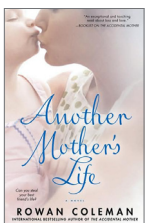
Lulu in Marrakech

by Diane Johnson

(Dutton, \$25.95, 9780525950370/0525950370)

"Part chick-lit, part intrepid spy story, part local flavor, Lulu in Marrakech charms the reader with a spy who worries as much about her love life as her undercover activities."

—Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA



Another Mother's Life

by Rowan Coleman

(Pocket, \$15 paper, 9781416583028/1416583025)

"Larger-than-life characters and a warm study in true friendship made this story of the effects of a broken friendship hard to put down. I will gladly recommend this book to my book club."

—Andra Tracy, Out Word Bound, Indianapolis, IN



The Glass of Time

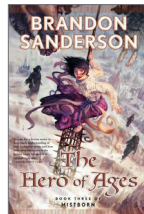
by Michael Cox

(Norton, \$24.95, 9780393067736/0393067734)

"In the spirit of Dickens, this breathless historical suspense novel set in 1870s Britain follows an orphaned young woman on a mission: She's been sent as a maid to infiltrate the grand country house of Evenwood, uncover its venerable family's buried secrets, and put right the injustices that have

clouded her life."

—Mark David Bradshaw, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS



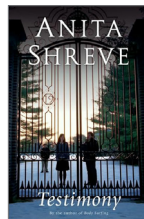
The Hero of Ages

Book Three of Mistborn, by Brandon Sanderson

(Tor, \$27.95, 9780765316899/0765316897)

"This spectacular conclusion to the Mistborn trilogy—in which emperor Elend Venture and his wife, the assassin Vin, try to forge critical alliances—will keep any reader entranced and shocked when the end finally reveals itself. The series is unique and far from the formulaic structure of most modern fantasy."

—April Gosling, Horizon Books, Petoskey, MI



Testimony

by Anita Shreve

(Little Brown, \$25.99, 978016059862/016059862)

"This book shows the impact of a school sex scandal on the students, the parents, and the faculty of a small New England boarding school. The characters are deftly written, and the mother of one of the male students involved is especially well drawn and heartbreaking."

—Terry Lucas, The Open Book, Westhampton Beach, NY



Time of My Life

by Allison Winn Scotch

(Shaye Areheart Books, \$23, 9780307408570/0307408574)

"A tantalizing question—what would life be like if you'd chosen the old boyfriend or forgiven the mother who wronged you? If a deep tissue massage (and time travel) can reveal what's important in life, who needs ruby slippers?"

—Candace Purdom, Anderson's Bookshop, Naperville, IL



Nothing With Strings

NPR's Beloved Holiday Stories, by Bailey White

(Scribner, \$24, 9781439102268/1439102260)

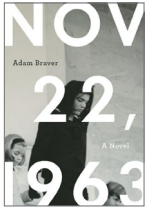
"Bailey White's stories may begin as though they will end with weddings and flowers, but they take sharp turns and end up not sad, just real, like our lives, but more closely observed. You'll want to read one story at a time so this collection will last longer."

—Mary Ann Steele, Mary Ann's Mostly Books, Benson, AZ

DECEMBER '08



NOTABLES



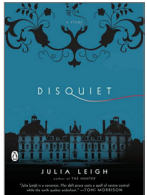
November 22, 1963

by Adam Braver

(Tin House, \$14.95 paper, 9780980243628/0980243629)

"This blend of facts and Braver's wonderful sense of imagination is an intimate look into the thoughts and feelings of Jackie Kennedy as she deals with the tragic events of November 22 as First Lady, and also as a wife who is devastated by the sudden loss of her husband. This book has a haunting effect and you will want to read it over and over again."

—Sue Woodman, A Novel Idea, Bristol, RI



Disquiet

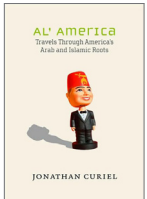
A Story, by Julia Leigh

(Penguin, \$13 paper, 9780143113508/014311350X)

"Julia Leigh's novel of a haunting family reunion is a strangely beautiful book, as major life trauma and drama are shown through spare, eloquent prose."

—Cinda Meister, Booksmart, Morgan Hill, CA

NONFICTION



Al' America

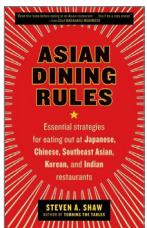
Travels Through America's Arab and Islamic Roots, by Jonathan Curiel

(New Press, \$25.95, 9781595583529/1595583521)

"Jonathan Curiel give us an engaging tour through the down-to-earth roots of many aspects of American life, a warm recounting of the personal stores of American individuals and families—native born, immigrant, and

slave—and how their lives brought Arab and Islamic culture to the United States. A healthy antidote to much prejudice and misinformation."

—Gary Colliver, Windows on the World-Books & Art, Mariposa, CA



Asian Dining Rules

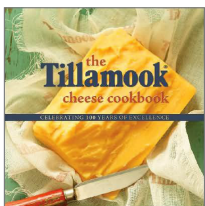
Essential Strategies for Eating Out at Japanese, Chinese, Southeast Asian, Korean, and Indian Restaurants, by Steven A. Shaw

(Morrow Cookbooks, \$15.95 paper, 9780061255595/0061255599)

"Steven Shaw demystifies the Japanese, Chinese, Indian, and other Asian restaurants for the general foodie. Insights include what to eat, how to eat it, tricks to the best places, and some insider stories of eating pleasures. Great

information presented in a fun way!"

—Syrinda Sharpe, University Book Store, Seattle, WA



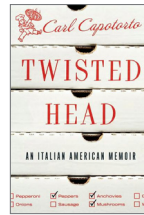
The Tillamook Cheese Cookbook

Celebrating 100 Years of Excellence, by Tillamook County Creamery Association, Kathy Holstad

(Amica, \$24.95, 9780980194241/0980194245)

"There will be a collective sigh of yummy when this one hits the shelves—and not just in the Northwest!"

—Diana Portwood, Bob's Beach Books, Lincoln City, OR



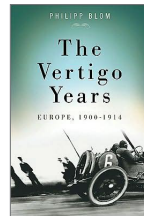
Twisted Head

An Italian American Memoir, by Carl Capotorto

(Broadway, \$23.95, 9780767928618/076792861X)

"Carl Capotorto's Twisted Head is a spirited memoir of growing up as the only son in a working class Italian-American family during the '60s and '70s in New York City. Rich with tales from home, the family business, school, work, and friends, fans of memoirs of David Sedaris and Augusten Burroughs will find this tale kinder and gentler."

—Jean Petrovs, Books Galore, Watkinsville, GA



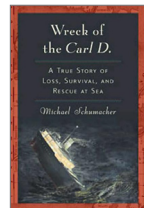
The Vertigo Years

Europe - 1900-1914, by Philipp Blom

(Basic, \$29.95, 9780465011162/0465011160)

"Philip Blom has written a grand and magisterial cultural history of prewar Europe in the early 20th century. Wonderfully detailed with telling anecdotes and provocative ideas in every chapter."

—Scott Kinberger, Books Inc., San Francisco, CA



The Wreck of the Carl D.

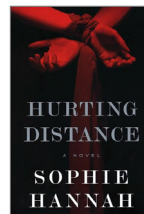
A True Story of Loss, Survival, and Rescue at Sea, by Michael Schumacher

(Bloomsbury, \$26, 9781596914841/159691484X)

"This is an excellent history of the sinking of the Carl D. Bradley, a 623-foot limestone carrier caught in a violent storm in Lake Michigan. Enlightening and informative, the book shows the the sense of community within Rogers City, Michigan, and the devastation felt by the community most affected by the tragedy."

—Dorothy Dickerson, Books & More, Albion, MI

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE



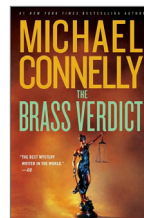
Hurting Distance

by Sophie Hannah

(Soho, \$25, 9781569475218/1569475210)

"Second in the series, this well-written British police procedural features a female detective out of Sex in the City and a serial rapist who is systematically raping professional women for fun, and in front of an audience for profit. This gritty tale builds slowly, but it is well worth the time."

—Mary Jane Weber, The Town Book Store, Westfield, NJ



The Brass Verdict

by Michael Connelly

(Little Brown, \$26.99, 9780316166294/0316166294)

"Michael Connelly teams LAPD Detective Harry Bosch with L.A. lawyer Mickey Haller and generates his best novel yet. A recovering Haller is pulled back into the high-stakes legal world and becomes an uncomfortable ally of Bosch. As Haller becomes further enmeshed in legal chicanery and a murder plot, both he and Bosch have to rely on their uneasy alliance to succeed and survive, leading to a conclusion that will stun faithful readers."

—Bill Cusumano, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI

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