

BOOKMARKS

Fall 2009 Newsletter ~ The Bookloft ~ Home of Books for the Omnivorous Reader ~ Enterprise, Oregon

Book Reviews

THE ELEGANCE OF THE HEDGEHOG by Muriel Barbery

This philosophical novel is about the residents of an elegant hotel in Paris, in particular, Renee Michel, the concierge, and a precocious 11 year old resident Paloma Josse. Renee takes great efforts to maintain her appearance as a dull, unintelligent servant when, in reality, she abhors television, preferring good books, music and art. We mostly learn about Paloma through her two journals: "Profound Thoughts" and "Journal of the Movement of the World". In these, she records her insights and observations about her own life and those around her. When a new tenant moves into the building, he changes the dynamics of the situation, discovers Renee's true passions, and provides a sounding board for Paloma's ideas. Through his actions, Renee and Paloma become friends and fellow philosophers and both discover new ways of fearless living. 15.00 Europa Editions

THE MAGICIAN'S ELEPHANT by Kate DiCamillo

This marvelous new children's book by the author of *The Tale of Despereaux* celebrates the belief in the impossible, the unexpected and the extraordinary.

It is winter in a small town a long time ago. When a magician mistakenly conjures up an elephant it leads to a series of unusual events. A few of the townspeople begin to question their life situations and learn what magic can occur when they ask: What if? Why Not? and Could it be?

This inspiring tale should become a classic like *The Little Prince* or *The Phantom Tollbooth*. It would be enjoyed by readers of all ages. The story is beautifully illustrated by Yoko Tanaka, whose black and white drawings truly invoke the dark but warm mood of the tale and the town. 16.99 Candlewick

A COUNTRY CALLED HOME by Kim Barnes

Many years ago, I read Kim Barnes memoir, *In the Wilderness: Coming of age in Unknown Country*. It chronicled her early years growing up in Idaho. Idaho's Clearwater country is also the setting for her latest novel. It takes place in the 1960s and 1970s and is a fine portrait of the idealism of those years. The main characters are newlyweds who move to a remote area of Idaho from back East. Thomas Deracotte, although trained as a physician, is more interested in fishing, outdoor life and playing at living off the land. His very pregnant wife, Helen, quickly becomes disillusioned with her life particularly after the baby is born. They hire a young local named Manny who had very little family life as a child and has lived on his own for some time. As frustrations mount, it falls to Manny to do a lot of the caretaking of Thomas, Helen and their baby Elise. Flashing forward about 17 years, we see the results of this unsettled life on them all. Barnes gives us an interested look at families, mostly very unconventional ones. Yet her story also explores the sense of love and strength that can come from family, no matter how it is defined. 15.00 Anchor Books

Fall New Releases

This fall there are more exciting books coming out than I've seen in many years – favorite authors as well as new discoveries.



Available now

South of Broad, a long-awaited novel by Pat Conroy (*Prince of Tides*). Conroy takes his time in crafting his novels. This latest tells the story of a group of friends who meet their last year of high school and develop lifelong friendships. In his classic style, Conroy explores the lingering effects of dysfunctions within families. 29.95 Nan A. Talese Books

The Lost Symbol, Dan Brown's sequel to *The DaVinci Code* is set in Washington DC. Robert Langdon unravels secrets within Masonic symbols. 29.95 Doubleday

The Last Song, Nicholas Sparks' latest. 24.99 Grand Central Publishing

Where Men Win Glory by Jon Krakauer tells the story of Pat Tillman, former football star who was killed in Afghanistan. 27.95 Doubleday

Her Fearful Symmetry, the new novel by Audrey Niffenegger, author of *The Time Traveler's Wife*. 26.99 Scribner

Have a Little Faith, new inspiration thoughts from Mitch Albom. 23.99 Hyperion

Half Broke Horse, new nonfiction from Jeanette Winterson (*The Glass Castle*) 26.00 Scribner

The Big Burn, by Tim Egan. The prize-winning journalist examines the great wildfire of 1910, and its effect on the fledgling Forest Service as well as the forestry policies of the West. 27.00 Houghton Mifflin

True Compass, Ted Kennedy's memoir. 35.00 Twelve

Double-Jack Murders Patrick McManus's latest Sheriff Bo Tully mystery. 24.00 Simon & Schuster

What the Dog Saw, new essays by Malcolm Gladwell 27.99 Little Brown

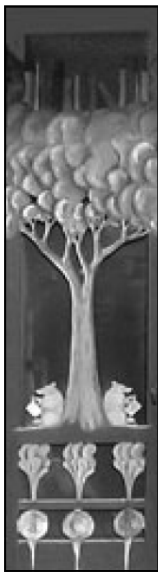
Last Night in Twisted River, a new novel from John Irving 28.00 Random House

November

A Quilter's Holiday by Jennifer Chiaverini 19.99 Simon & Schuster

December

U is for Undertow, by Sue Grafton. She's almost to the end of the alphabet! 27.95 Putnam



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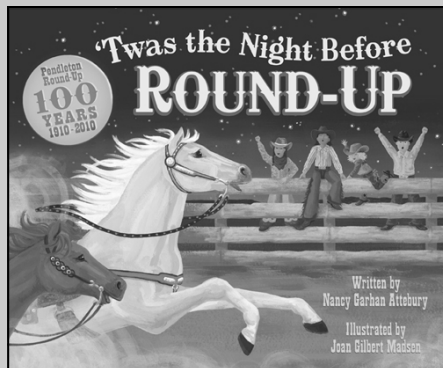
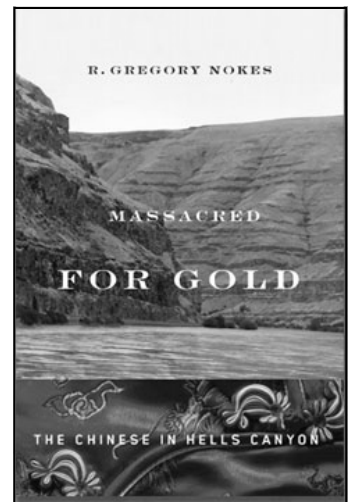
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New Books of Local Interest

Massacred for Gold: The Chinese in Hells Canyon

by Gregory Nokes

Nokes did extensive research into this incident of racial violence on the Snake River. The book also presents a good insight into the history of the Chinese workers in the West in the late 1800s. 18.95 Oregon State University Press



'Twas the Night Before Roundup

by Nancy Garhan Attebury with illustrations by Joan Gilbert Madsen

A delightful new children's book which tells of magical horses that appears each year before the Pendleton Roundup. Attebury did a marvelous job of capturing the cadence and rhyme of the Clement Moore *Night Before Christmas* and Madsen's soft and lovely detailed illustrations add to the charm of this book. 15.99 Mt. Emily Press

Calamity: The Heppner Flood of 1903

by Joann Green Byrd

This is a riveting account of the tragedy with many details about individuals and the choices they made that determined their fates during the disaster. 22.50 Washington State University Press

