

OHIOana QUARTERLY

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Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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OHIOana QUARTERLY

Winter 2015

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From the Director

Dear Friends,



Happy 2015!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to the new year as much as we are at the Ohioana Library Association. It's an exciting time here at the library, as you will see from this issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*.

First, there is the ninth annual Ohioana Book Festival, set for Saturday, April 25, at the Sheraton Columbus on Capitol Square. This will mark the first time we have presented the event in the heart of downtown Columbus, something we have wanted to do since the inaugural festival in 2007. As a sneak preview, we have announced the lineup of our featured authors—a stellar list that includes several Ohioana Book Award winners and the author of the novel selected by Amazon.com as the Best Book of 2014! Ultimately we'll have approximately 100 authors joining us on April 25. We hope you will join us, too!

Timed to coincide with the movie award season, this issue also includes an article about Ohio authors whose works have been adapted for the screen. You may be surprised at how many films—including some beloved classics—came from the pens of Ohio writers. Of course we also have a number of reviews, a list with descriptions of books added to our collection in recent months, and a calendar of events.

It was wonderful hearing from so many readers after the *Ohioana Quarterly* made its debut in the new format last October. It's gratifying to know that people are finding it easier to read and are enjoying the additional features and the larger number of photos in color. What readers said they appreciated most was that the *Ohioana Quarterly* is indeed a quarterly publication once again. This issue is a fulfillment of that promise. As we said in October, the new *Ohioana Quarterly* has been designed and written for you. We hope you find this new issue to be as fun, entertaining, and informative as the first. We welcome your comments and suggestions, and look forward to your feedback.

See you in April. Until then, happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Weaver
Executive Director

ON THE COVER

This issue's cover art is adapted from a library poster created by the Work Projects Administration. To view this and other WPA posters, visit the Work Projects Administration Poster Collection at the Library of Congress at www.loc.gov. (Image courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC2-5186.)

Going Hollywood: Ohioana at the Movies

by David Weaver

Alan Ladd rides off into the sunset as young Brandon De Wilde calls pleadingly after him, “Shane! Come back!”



Rosalind Russell, as the irrepressible Mame, implores mousy secretary Agnes Gooch (played by Peggy Cass) to “LIVE!” telling her, “Life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death!”



A large crowd of spectators cheers on defiant bank robber Al Pacino as he taunts the horde of policemen, their weapons trained on him, with shouts of “Attica! Attica! Attica!”

These three quotes are included in the American Film Institute’s list of the 100 Greatest Movie Quotes of all time. You may recall the films they came from—*Shane*, *Auntie Mame*, and *Dog Day Afternoon*. But what you might not know is that all three films were based on works by Ohio writers.

January brings with it the start of the movie awards season, with the granddaddy of them all, the 87th annual Academy Awards®, scheduled for February 22. Many Ohio writers have played a part in some of cinema’s most beloved films since movies first became a popular form of entertainment more than a century ago. Novels, plays, short

stories, and magazine articles by Ohioans have all provided source material for the screen.

(MID)WESTERNS

Ohio native Zane Grey struggled as a writer before turning to the Westerns that would make him famous. In 1903 he self-published his first novel, *Betty Zane*. The book was based on an ancestor who had saved Fort Henry during a 1782 siege—a time when the Ohio Valley was the western frontier.

Grey made his first trip to the western United States in 1907, taking photographs and detailed

notes about the landscape and activities that would form the basis for his books. His first Western, *The Heritage of the Desert*, was released in 1910.

Grey’s second Western, *Riders of the Purple Sage*, was published in 1912, and has been called “the most popular Western novel of all time.” The first film version of the novel, starring William Farnum, one of the biggest stars of the silent era, was released six years later. Four more versions would follow in the ensuing decades, the most recent being a 1996 made-for-television movie starring Ed Harris and Amy Madigan. No other work by an Ohio-born writer has had more screen incarnations. Grey wrote more than eighty Westerns over the course of his career; more than 100 of his novels and stories have been adapted for the silver screen.

Probably no work by an Ohio writer has been more celebrated in its translation to the screen than *Shane*. Jack Schaefer was a native of Cleveland and a graduate of Oberlin College who had enjoyed a twenty-year career as a journalist and editor when, in 1946, he decided to try his hand at fiction. He wrote a three-part series for *Argosy* magazine entitled “Rider from Nowhere.” Schaefer continued to work on the story, and three years later *Shane* was released as a novel. It was an immediate sensation.



This ad for *Riders of the Purple Sage* appeared in the September/October 1918 issue of *Moving Picture World*. (Image courtesy of Internet Archive; contributed by the Museum of Modern Art Library, New York, PN1993.M88.)

The 1953 screen version of *Shane*, beautifully filmed near Jackson Hole, Wyoming, was produced and directed by George Stevens. It starred Alan Ladd in the iconic title role, with ten-year-old Brandon De Wilde as the boy who idolizes him. Critics and audiences alike hailed the film. In 2008, the American Film Institute named its list of the Ten Greatest Western Films of All Time. *Shane* was listed third, surpassed only by *The Searchers* and *High Noon*. Schaefer's original novel itself has been called one of the ten greatest Western novels of all time.

CLASSIC COMEDIES

Columbus native James Thurber was one of the most celebrated authors during the first half of the twentieth century; his works appeared on both stage and screen.

Thurber was famed mostly for his cartoons and short stories, but it was his hit 1940 play *The Male Animal*, co-written with his close friend and former Ohio State University classmate Elliot Nugent, that first brought his name to the screen. Nugent also directed the film version in 1942 starring Henry Fonda and

Olivia de Havilland. Both the play and movie were happy experiences for Thurber. Less so was the 1947 screen version of one of his most popular stories, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. Thurber was said to be "horror struck" at how producer Sam Goldwyn refashioned his story to fit the eccentric talents of star Danny Kaye. Despite Thurber's disdain, *Mitty* was a hit with moviegoers, and it was again in 2013 when a new version was produced with comedian Ben Stiller as both star and director.

Columbus native Donald Ogden Stewart started out writing stories and plays when he moved to New York City in the early 1920s, where his circle of literary friends included Dorothy Parker and Ernest Hemingway. Stewart later moved to Hollywood and by 1935 was known primarily as a screenwriter, winning an Oscar® for 1940's *The Philadelphia Story*. Oscar® night that year was one of the occasions where every winner seemed to drone on, thanking everyone from their colleagues to their parents to "all the little people." When his name was called, Stewart said, "There's been so much niceness here tonight that I'm happy to say I'm totally responsible for the success of *The Philadelphia*

Story. Nobody turned a finger to help me." Stewart continued to successfully write screenplays until he was sadly blacklisted during the "Red Scare" of the 1950s.

DRAMA

Harriet Beecher Stowe was born in 1811 in Litchfield, Connecticut, but moved to Cincinnati with her family at age 21. There she met and married Calvin Ellis Stowe, a professor at the seminary where her father taught. The Stowes supported abolition and the Underground Railroad, and temporarily sheltered fugitive slaves in their home. Shortly after leaving Ohio in 1850, Stowe had the idea for an antislavery story that would become her most famous work.

Uncle Tom's Cabin inspired numerous stage adaptations throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, and quickly made the jump to film with the invention of moving pictures at the turn of the twentieth century. No story was filmed more in the Silent Era than *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; there were at least nine adaptations between 1903 and 1927. The 1903 version was one of the first full-

OHIO WRITERS IN THE NATIONAL FILM REGISTRY

In 1989, the Library of Congress established the National Film Registry to recognize motion pictures that are deemed to be of "cultural, historic, or aesthetic significance." Twenty-five titles are named to the list each year. Seven motion pictures that were written by Ohioans or based on their works are included in the registry:

Uncle Tom's Cabin – 1914, Harriet Beecher Stowe (novel)
Little Caesar – 1931, W.R. Burnett (novel and screenplay)
Imitation of Life – 1934, Fannie Hurst (novel)
The Philadelphia Story – 1940, Donald Ogden Stewart (screenplay)
The Asphalt Jungle – 1950, W.R. Burnett (novel and screenplay)
Shane – 1953, Jack Schaefer (novel)
Dog Day Afternoon – 1975, P.F. Kluge (magazine article)

length films, at a time when that meant a running time between ten and fourteen minutes. The 1914 version was the first “white” film to star an African American actor; Ohio native Sam Lucas played the title role. Previous films had cast white actors in blackface as Tom.

Although Fannie Hurst’s name is not well known today, she was the highest paid female writer of the Roaring Twenties. Between 1918 and 1961, nearly thirty stories by the Hamilton native were adapted for the screen. Her most famous work was her 1933 novel *Imitation of Life*, a tearjerker with its bold (for its time) racial themes. The first film version, starring Claudette Colbert, was released in 1934. Twenty-five years later, it was lavishly remade in Technicolor with Lana Turner.

Louis Bromfield received a Pulitzer Prize in 1926 for this third novel, *Early Autumn*. He was hailed as a rising literary talent at a time when Hollywood executives were looking for material that took advantage of motion pictures as a storytelling medium. Bromfield saw a half-dozen of his popular novels and stories made into films in the 1930s and 1940s and wrote several screenplays himself. His work was brought to life by Hollywood royalty including Myrna Loy, Greer Garson, Tyrone Power, and Vincent Price.

Bromfield’s work often took him to California; however, his friendships within the industry also brought Hollywood to Ohio. The 1939 world premiere of *The Rains Came*, starring Tyrone Power, took place in Bromfield’s hometown of Mansfield. His lesser-known novel *It All Came*

True made it to the screen in 1940, starring his friend Humphrey Bogart. Five years later, Bogart married actress Lauren Bacall at Bromfield’s Malabar Farm in one of the most celebrated weddings in movie history; Bromfield served as best man. Many actors visited Malabar Farm over the years, including Errol Flynn, James Cagney, George Burns, and Gracie Allen.

In the mid-1950s, playwrights Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee were the toast of New York with two smash hits on Broadway. Both plays by the Cleveland-area natives were later made into equally successful films. Rosalind Russell played Auntie Mame on both stage (1956) and screen (1958). It became the actress’s most celebrated role, with Mame’s famous “life is a banquet” line. In fact, both the role and the line were so associated with Russell that she titled her 1977 memoir *Life is a Banquet*.

In contrast to the hilarious *Auntie Mame*, Lawrence and Lee’s 1955 play *Inherit the Wind* was a drama based on the famed Scopes Monkey Trial of the 1920s. It became one of Broadway’s longest-running plays of the post-war era. The 1960 screen version starred Spencer Tracy, Frederic March, and Gene Kelly.

Rod Serling was born in New York, but lived in Ohio for seven years after World War II. He graduated with a B.A. in literature from Antioch College in 1950 and worked as a writer for WLW radio and WKRC-TV in Cincinnati. He moved to New York in 1954, and by the end of the decade was an

award-winning writer of scripts for both television and film. When *The Twilight Zone* premiered in 1959, it made Serling—who opened and closed each episode—into a celebrity. Even while working on the series, Serling continued writing for other media. In the 1960s he produced the screenplays for two major films: the taut Cold War thriller *Seven Days in May* starring Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas in 1964, and the sci-fi classic *Planet of the Apes* starring Charlton Heston in 1968.

The robbery of a Brooklyn bank served as the inspiration for a magazine article by an Ohio writer that in turn became one of the most memorable films of the 1970s. P. F. Kluge’s article “The Boys in the Bank” appeared in *Life* magazine shortly after the real-life incident happened in August 1972. Three years later, the story was adapted for film. *Dog Day Afternoon*, directed by Sidney Lumet and starring Al Pacino and John Cazale as the bank robbers, was not only a runaway hit but also a movie that has influenced a generation of filmmakers.

Kluge, who teaches at his alma mater, Kenyon College, would later see another of his works—the 1980 novel *Eddie and the Cruisers*—adapted for the big screen.

Lorain’s Toni Morrison has won every writer’s accolade that is possible to win, including the Nobel Prize for Literature. Her novels have become classics—none more so than *Beloved*, which won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize in fiction. The screen version in 1992, starring Oprah Winfrey and Danny Glover, was not a critical or box-office success. But the novel

STARMAKING STORIES

endures, and in 2006 was named by the *New York Times* as “the best work of American fiction of the past twenty-five years.”

The 2002 comedy-drama *Adaptation* was based on Cleveland-born author Susan Orlean’s nonfiction book *The Orchid Thief*. Unlike movies whose plots are taken directly from their original source material, the plot of *Adaptation* is about how a writer—in this case Charlie Kauffman—struggles to overcome writer’s block as he tries to turn *The Orchid Thief* into a screenplay. As a result, several real-life people became characters in the movie. Nicholas Cage played Kauffman, while author Susan Orlean was played by no less than Meryl Streep. Both actors went on to receive Oscar® nominations for their performances, while Kauffman himself was nominated for adapting Orlean’s book. Truly a case where having writer’s block paid off!

It should be no surprise that so many Ohio writers have seen their works made into motion pictures. A film is, after all, telling a story via a different medium. Ohio has produced some great storytellers, and continues to do so. As long as it does, Hollywood will keep calling.

Springfield’s William Riley “W.R.” Burnett didn’t simply spawn a movie with his writing, he spawned a movie genre—the gangster film. When the screen version of Burnett’s novel *Little Caesar* premiered in 1931, it ushered in a decade of gritty crime dramas in which gun-toting criminals robbed and murdered their way to the top, only to die in a hail of bullets before the final reel. No writer provided more stories for these films than Burnett.

While working as a night clerk in a seedy Chicago hotel during the 1920s, Burnett befriended a low-level mobster who offered the young Ohioan an inside look at the underworld. Burnett poured what he learned into *Little Caesar*, his first novel. When published in 1929, it was a sensation. The screen version made an instant star of actor Edward G. Robinson in the title role. Similarly, George Raft shot to fame as the coin-flipping hit man in Burnett’s *Scarface*, based loosely on the story of Al Capone.

When Burnett’s *High Sierra* was filmed in 1941, Humphrey Bogart, who had worked for more than a decade in over forty Hollywood films, lobbied director Raoul Walsh for the part. At first Walsh balked; he saw Bogart as a supporting player, not a leading man. Bogart persisted, and Walsh finally relented. Bogie’s portrayal of doomed Roy “Mad Dog” Earle made him a star, and he would remain so until he died in 1957.

MGM’s *The Asphalt Jungle*, based on Burnett’s 1949 novel, was the story of four men planning a jewel robbery. A minor but key role was played by 23-year-old Marilyn Monroe. The critical acclaim Monroe received for her performance provided a major boost to what would become one of the screen’s most iconic careers.

Burnett continued to produce novels, stories, and screenplays well into his 70s. The 1963 movie *The Great Escape*, starring Steve McQueen and James Garner, was one of his most popular works. Burnett died in 1982, just a year before director Brian De Palma, screenwriter Oliver Stone, and star Al Pacino teamed up for a new version of *Scarface*—fifty years after Burnett’s classic original first hit the screen.

An Interview with Celeste Ng

by Andrea Hall



Photo © Kevin Day Photography

Celeste Ng's debut novel *Everything I Never Told You* revolves around the family of James and Marilyn Lee, a mixed race couple raising their three children in Ohio during the 1970's. The story opens with the death of the middle child, sixteen-year-old Lydia. Consumed by grief, each member of the family takes his or her own journey to try and uncover what led to Lydia's death. The book looks at how easily a family can be torn apart and what it takes to put it back together.

Everything I Never Told You was recently listed as Amazon's Best Book of 2014. The book tackles tough issues of racism, family secrets, and finding a sense of belonging.

Q What inspired you to write this story?

A Some years ago, my husband told me an anecdote about a school friend—when they were both about seven or eight, he was over at his friend's house and his friend pushed his own little sister into the lake in their backyard. The parents were there, of course, and the sister was pulled out and the friend appropriately scolded and everyone was fine—but I kept thinking about what that brother-sister dynamic was like before, and after, this incident. And, being a terrible swimmer myself, I naturally wondered what would have happened if the parents hadn't been nearby. As I started to write,

the story changed—Lydia is a teenager in the novel, for one thing—but it all started with that image of a girl falling into the water.

That's the small-scale inspiration for the story—the large-scale inspiration, I guess, is that I've always been fascinated with secrets. When I was a kid, I was convinced that adults led more interesting lives than they appeared to, and inspired by *Harriet the Spy*, I would hide under tables or in cupboards or listen through air registers, hoping to hear something exciting. As I've gotten older, the idea of secrets continues to intrigue me: there's always a difference between the face we present to the world and the self we are behind closed doors. If you extend that train of thought, it leads to some pretty big questions: Is there anyone, other than you, who actually knows the "real" you? Is it ever possible to know another person fully, or to understand their particular experience completely? I wanted to explore those questions in the novel—and in fact, they drive a lot of my work.

Q The story is written from multiple points of view, following each family member as they deal with Lydia's death. The reader pieces together a picture of the family through these snapshots, uncovering secrets each family member keeps. What statement were you trying to make about how much can stay hidden from one's own family?

A The older I get, the more I realize how much I don't know about even people I'm very close to. Sometimes they're little habits I've never noticed before, like the fact that my mother peels her bananas upside-down, from the pointy end rather than the stem. Sometimes they're bigger things: after the writer Maud Newton asked me to do a Q&A about family history for the *Tin House* blog, my mother, sister, and I got into a long email conversation in which I learned some of the intricacies of our lineage for the first time. Those things weren't secrets *per se*—I'd just never asked before, so my mom never got around to sharing them.

I suspect most families have their secrets, whether intentional or not. And sometimes even the smaller secrets can shake your understanding of another person: How can I have known you for so long and never knew...? Sounds silly, but you think, if I never noticed this small thing about you, what bigger things have I also missed?

Q You used a number of flashbacks to share the story of Lydia's parents and the struggles they faced. What challenges did you face weaving these into the story?

A Structure was one of the biggest challenges of this novel—how to weave the past and present together so that the reader understood how one influenced and echoed the other. The story stayed essentially the same throughout the process, but I tried a number of different structures and went through four different drafts before I found one that worked. The novel is as much about the parents and their experiences as it is about the kids and their struggles, and the two parallel each other. So it makes sense that I ended up with two parallel storylines—the present, in which Lydia disappears, and the past, in which all the family history behind that disappearance is revealed.

Q What do you hope readers will take away from this story?

A I hope readers will think about the things that go unsaid in their own relationships—both the big things and the small things, the things kept secret on purpose and by default. It's cliché, but sometimes we don't say things like "I love you" or "I'm proud of you" or "I'm upset" because we assume they're understood—yet those are things that need to be both said and heard. Those are often the things that help us understand each other better.

Q How long had you been working on this novel before you got a publishing deal?

A I started the novel at the end of my M.F.A program at the University of Michigan, in spring 2006, and the book sold in fall 2012. So it took a good six years. There were gaps in there, of course. I write something like a python eats: getting a draft in one big chunk and then taking several months to digest it. But the novel was my main project for those six years, so I'm thrilled to have it out in the world at last.

Q This was your debut novel. What about the publication process surprised you the most?

A I've been surprised (in the best possible way) at the warm welcome the novel has received, and how many people seem to have connected emotionally with the book. There are so many novels out there, and so many good ones, that it can be hard for a book to find its audience, especially for a debut. So I'm immensely grateful to my publisher and all the sales reps and booksellers and librarians and bloggers and readers who loved the novel enough to tell other people about it. I've gotten emails from readers—some of them surprisingly personal—telling me how much the book meant to them, that have touched me more than I can say. As a writer, I spend a lot of time by myself in my head, and I'm so happy that, when this story went out into the world, people found it meaningful.

“Is there anyone,
other than you, who
actually knows the
'real' you?”

Q What advice do you have for other writers?

A Read a lot, and read widely. Write a lot, and write widely—by which I mean stretch yourself; try forms and topics outside your comfort zone, even if you never show those pieces to anyone. Find people who can help you see your own work more clearly—teachers, writer friends, editors, agents. And be persistent. A big part of writing anything is just keeping at it until you get it down.

Q What is your writing process like?

A I usually need a first line and a last line before I can get started—for me, the story often lies in figuring out how to get from A to B. The first and last lines sometimes change, but I generally need them to get the gears turning. Some drafts come quickly, and some take a lot of chipping away; either way, after I've finished one, I usually need to put it aside and think about it for a few months before I'm ready to revise it. I have a group of friends I sometimes ask for feedback, as well, and their feedback can often help me see the piece more clearly and what it needs. Even so, it usually takes several revisions to finish a piece.

Schedule-wise, I have a young son, so right now my writing time squeezes itself in around his schedule! He's at preschool in the mornings, so those are my writing hours. Sometimes this is really motivating and I get a lot done. Sometimes, less so. But I don't really know any writers who feel they have enough time to write.

Q In addition to novels, you also write short stories. Do you have a preference between the two or do you just work with the format that fits the story best?

A I love both short and long forms—they feel very different to me, so it's hard to compare. Short

stories have to be focused: they shine like a spotlight very brightly on one thing and illuminate it enough so that you can see it clearly. A novel, on the other hand, has to have a much bigger scope; its light is more diffuse, but the different levels of shadow and light are part of what make it so intriguing. The short story tends to get treated as lesser—a warm-up exercise for writing a novel—but I think that does a disservice to both forms. If you've ever tried to write a short story, you know that it's difficult to tell a meaningful story in such a small space, and if you've ever tried to write a novel, you know how hard it can be to sustain a story over such a long length. They're just two different creatures, each with their own needs and quirks, and I hope to keep practicing them both.

Q Congratulations on topping the list of Amazon's Best Books of 2014! When did you find out and what was your reaction?

A I didn't find out ahead of time—so I learned about it the morning of the announcement, when someone tweeted at me about it! I was stunned and incredibly grateful. The editorial staff at Amazon are people who love books and want to promote the ones they love. And to have a group like that, who read a lot of books, select mine as the best book of the year, was mind-blowing.

Celeste Ng is the author of the novel *Everything I Never Told You* (Penguin Press), which was a *New York Times* bestseller, a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2014, and Amazon's #1 Best Book of 2014. Her stories have been published in *One Story*, *TriQuarterly*, *Subtropics*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Gulf Coast*, and the *Pushcart Prize XXXVI: Best of the Small Presses 2012* anthology, among other publications. Her essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Kenyon Review Online*, the *Huffington Post*, the *Millions*, and elsewhere. She has been awarded the Pushcart Prize, the Hopwood Award, and a scholarship to the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference.

Celeste grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Shaker Heights, Ohio, in a family of scientists. She attended Harvard University and earned an M.F.A from the University of Michigan (now the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan). She has taught writing at the University of Michigan and Grub Street in Boston and served as blog editor for the *Fiction Writers Review* website for three years. Currently, Celeste lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. To learn more about her and her work, visit www.celesteng.com or follow her on Twitter (@pronounced_ing).



Save the Date!

2015 Ohioana Book Festival

04.25.15

Mark your calendars now to join us as we present the ninth annual Ohioana Book Festival on Saturday, April 25, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at an exciting new venue—the Sheraton Columbus on Capitol Square!

Enjoy panel discussions, a book fair, children's activities, food, entertainment, and more in a fun-filled day for readers of all ages. Meet approximately 100 Ohio authors, including the following featured authors:

David Baker, *Scavenger Loop* (Granville)
Jeffrey Ebbeler, *Click!* (Cincinnati)
Ann Hagedorn, *The Invisible Soldiers* (Ripley)
Michelle Houts, *Kammie on First* (Rockford)
Gene Logsdon, *Gene Everlasting* (Upper Sandusky)
Celeste Ng, *Everything I Never Told You* (Shaker Heights)
Edith Pattou, *Ghosting* (Columbus)
Mike Resnick, *The Fortress in Orion* (Cincinnati)
Yolonda Tonette Sanders, *Day of Atonement* (Columbus)
Thrity Umrigar, *The Story Hour* (Cleveland Heights)

The complete list of participating authors will be announced in February. (Author lists are subject to change without notice.)

The festival is free and open to the public, with no advance registration required. For details and information about the authors, programming, community events, sponsors, and partners, visit the festival website at www.ohioanabookfestival.org.

Book Reviews

NONFICTION

**Burt, Edward H. Jr.,
and William E. Davis
Jr. *Alexander Wilson:
The Scot who Founded
American Ornithology.***

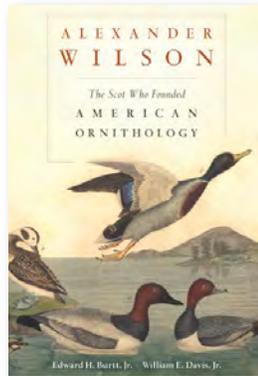
Belknap Press (Cambridge, MA)
2013. HC \$35.00.

Alexander Wilson: The Scot who Founded American Ornithology engages the reader from the first paragraph. The biography of this explorer and naturalist will appeal to nature historians, scientists, general readers, and most especially birders. Lovers of Audubon's work will learn, through illustrations and text, how Wilson influenced Audubon and how his work is still used by illustrators of today's birding guides.

This beautiful and informative book is the most recent biography of Alexander Wilson (1766-1813), who was already known for his eloquent writing, poetry, and keen eye when he came to the United States in 1794. Trained as a weaver, Wilson grew up near Paisley in Scotland. He and his fellow weavers read Robert Burns's poems and other contemporary authors. As Wilson matured and completed his apprenticeship, he began to write poems that reflected his commitment to standing up for workers' rights. Unfortunately, his writings were frowned upon by mill owners and the establishment, and after several fines and periods of confinement, Wilson left for America.

After working for several years as a weaver in America, Wilson turned his skills to writing, engraving, printing, and selling publications on subscription. He traveled along the east coast and northern New York seeking a home and a viable occupation. After several false starts, he accepted a position as a tutor and schoolteacher in Kingsessing, where he met naturalist, botanist, and illustrator William Bartram. This was the start of Wilson's career as an ornithologist.

From 1802 until his death in 1813, Wilson traveled more than 12,000 miles across North America. Although his



journeys were mostly east of the Mississippi River, he also ranged as far south as Cuba. He traversed the country on foot, on horseback, in a rowboat, and by stagecoach and ship. Through correspondence and acquaintances formed along the way, Wilson established a network of observers and specimen collectors. Writing hundreds of accounts of indigenous birds, Wilson discovered many new species and sketched the behavior and ecology of each species, all observed with the naked eye.

Burt and Davis bring Alexander Wilson and his birds to life, describing the process by which he studied, described, drew, engraved, and colored the numerous birds in his nine-volume study *American Ornithology*. The first edition was printed for 450 subscribers and included seventy-six plates that were engraved and hand colored.

From the illustration on the front cover to the useful notes, bibliography, and index at the end, this beautifully constructed book draws the reader into Wilson's life and career, which are eloquently described in five chapters. Within the first two chapters of the book, readers learn about Wilson's life, business career, and travels. The second chapter focuses on how Wilson sold subscriptions to his upcoming work. Through letters of introduction from Bartram, Wilson met Thomas Jefferson, who had just commissioned Lewis and Clark's expedition west of the Mississippi. Armed with more letters of introduction from Jefferson, Wilson traveled throughout the southern states, collecting subscriptions for his descriptions and illustrations of native birds. The chapter concludes with descriptions of the printing, engraving, and color processes that the printers used to produce the series.

The central and longest chapter, "Illustrating American Ornithology," consists of sketches and plates drawn by Wilson along with a short commentary about each illustration, as well as a description of the bird itself and the background or environment in which each bird is depicted. The illustrations are presented in chronological order, allowing the reader to see Wilson's technique mature and evolve to depict first plumage

and talons, and later the ecological habitat of each bird. Drawing from nature rather than specimens, Wilson depicted the birds eating, perching, and sometimes flying. Colors reflect plumage in life rather than the faded hues of skin and feathers after death.

Chapter four examines the ornithologists and naturalists whose writings influenced Wilson, while chapter five enumerates those influenced by Wilson, including Audubon. The appendices include a short bibliography of the publication of *American Ornithology*; biographical sketches of ornithologists in Europe and America, including John James Audubon, Charles Lucien Bonaparte, Thomas Nuttall, Spencer Fullerton Baird, and Elliot Coues; and a description of the nomenclature outlined by Linnaeus and first adopted in America by Wilson.

Alexander Wilson: The Scot who Founded American Ornithology was released on the bicentennial of Wilson's death, bringing the work of this important and groundbreaking ornithologist into the public eye. Here the authors reproduce many of Wilson's published and unpublished drawings for the nine-volume *American Ornithology*. The color illustrations are beautifully reproduced on buff-colored paper. Most of the illustrations are reproductions from the holdings of the Ernst Mayr Library, Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University; others come from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Library and Archives Collection (ANSP79) at Drexel University and the archives of the Paisley Museum, Renfrewshire Council, Scotland.

We are fortunate that five libraries in Ohio have the nine-volume set first printed in Philadelphia by Bradford and Inskeep: the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ohio University, Ohio Wesleyan University (where Burt taught until his recent retirement), University of Cincinnati, and Xavier University. Other libraries in Ohio have later print and microfilm editions.

Readers who want to know more about Wilson's work should check out the Wilson Ornithological Society (www.wilsonociety.org). Founded in 1888, the society is a worldwide organization of nearly 1,700 people who share a curiosity about birds. Named in honor of Alexander Wilson, the society publishes a quarterly

journal of ornithology and holds annual meetings. They also have a Pinterest page filled with beautiful illustrations of birds from Wilson's work (www.pinterest.com/seiurus/wilson-ornithological-society).

This biography and history has wide appeal to readers, bibliophiles interested in the history of printing and illustrations, scientific historians, and bird lovers. It is a book to be savored and enjoyed for many years to come.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

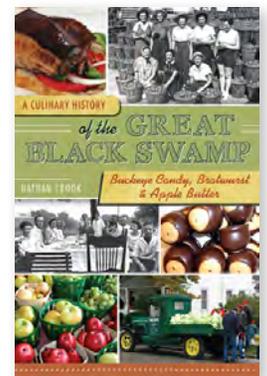
You might also like:

Kiser, Joy M. *America's Other Audubon*. Princeton Architectural Press (New York, NY) 2012. HC \$45.00. (The story of amateur naturalist Genevieve Jones and *Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of Birds of Ohio*, created as a companion to Audubon's *Birds of America*.)

Crook, Nathan. *A Culinary History of the Great Black Swamp: Buckeye Candy, Bratwurst, and Apple Butter*.

American Palate (Charleston, SC) 2013. PB \$19.99.

Prior to its drainage by intrepid settlers of the region, the Great Black Swamp dominated a large portion of the frontier landscape in northwestern Ohio and was a serious impediment to the development and settlement of the area. However, as author Nathan Crook explains, when the settlers drained this immense wilderness quagmire late in the nineteenth century, they "turned its fertile loam into some of the most productive farmland in the nation." And, as waves of immigrants migrated to this land of plenty and prospered from the soil's abundant offerings, rich, savory Midwestern culinary traditions inspired by recipes from various homelands took root.



Crook's book, *A Culinary History of the Great Black Swamp: Buckeye Candy, Bratwurst, and Apple Butter*, not only pays homage to the varied food cultures brought to the region by a variety of immigrant groups, but also explores the settlement patterns that created the ethnic and culinary diversity now found in the northwest corner of the Buckeye state. The book is wide

in scope and will appeal to a diverse range of audiences. It would also be a good acquisition for public libraries, meeting the demands and tastes of a variety of readers.

All other aspects of the book aside, it can stand alone as a fine cookbook. Crook offers up several traditional, Old World recipes that readers will love to serve at their next family meal or social gathering. As he discusses the various cultures that have moved into this region, Crook provides representative recipes for dishes prepared by regional Native American tribes and early frontiersmen. He then moves on to describe the food traditions and recipes of German-, Polish-, Hungarian-, Lebanese-, and Mexican-Americans that have put down roots in the Great Black Swamp region over the centuries.

History buffs will also find this book worthwhile. Importantly, Crook records the recipes of traditional dishes for posterity. He also pays close attention to the history of this unique Ohio landscape and those who have lived off of it. The geographical history of the swamp is detailed from its emergence in the “Wisconsinan Glaciation episode” until the late nineteenth century, when it was drained using tiles and hand-dug ditches by settlers of the region. The human history of this area is also traced from Native American times until today. This history is primarily focused on human relationships with, and attitudes toward, the landscape and soil and how the inhabitants’ relationship to food was shaped by their environment. Crook’s detailing of farming methods and farmstead life offers another layer of historical perspective, as he traces the history and development of northwestern Ohio agricultural practices from pre-European history onward to the present day.

Filled with both color and black-and-white photographs of the early inhabitants of the Great Black Swamp, present-day residents of the region cooking meals in their kitchens and over open fires, farmer’s markets, specialty meat shops, unique community festivals, county fair food stands, foodstuffs of the region prepared for consumption, and images of agricultural production, there is also an anthropological aspect to the book that accurately depicts the area’s historical and contemporary cultural demographics. The study of the land and history of the Great Black Swamp region illustrates people’s relationships with this specific place and the rich culinary traditions of this area, which

merge Old World recipes with the agricultural potential of the New World. Crook’s work succeeds as an effective study of the daily lives of Middle American people, both past and present.

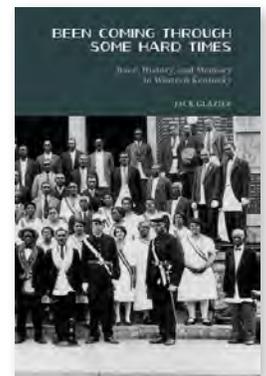
In true Ohio fashion, the book concludes with a “celebration of local foods” familiar to most of this state’s down-home-cooking, scarlet-and-grey-wearing brethren: Buckeye Candy. Even those not rooting for Ohio State University are well versed in this cultural food tradition in which rich peanut butter and dense chocolate are combined to resemble the seed of the state tree. These treats, Crook writes, “are celebrated in homes and offices at specific times of the year: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the annual Ohio State-Michigan football rivalry.” Illustrating his bona-fide Ohio credentials, Crook concludes his book on Great Black Swamp culinary culture with recipes for Peanut Butter Buckeye Pie, Buckeye Bars, and the state’s staple sweet treat, Candy Buckeyes.

REVIEWED BY MICHAEL RYAN, PH.D.

Glazier, Jack. *Been Coming through Some Hard Times: Race, History, and Memory in Western Kentucky.*

Univ. of Tennessee Press (Knoxville, TN) 2013. PB \$48.00.

Been Coming through Some Hard Times by Jack Glazier is a study in race relations and a work that presents an intriguing racial history of a Kentucky border town. This examination of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, is both an ethnographic and historical study, but its genesis lies in a personal relationship; it focuses on James Bass, whose daughter Idella worked as a domestic for Glazier’s family when the author was a child. Through the description of a “person in my family [who] was neither Jewish nor European” (xii), the reader gets a glimpse into the personal nature of Glazier’s study. As a child, Glazier learned of Hopkinsville through Idella Bass; the book is also dedicated to her memory. This is, in fact, very much a book about memory, and about the racialization of memory, as evidenced through the lives of past and



present residents of Hopkinsville. To achieve this end, Glazier conducted anthropological field work over ten months, concentrating on “largely neglected black perspectives and the black perspective in the town and county” (2).

Glazier’s work looks at both the place and its past in order to understand and explain the nature of black-white relations in Western Kentucky, beginning with a discussion of the slave past of Hopkinsville and Christian County. The work discusses an unpublished journal of Ellen Kenton McGaughey Wallace, a slave owner from the area during the antebellum period. Glazier’s discussion of her reflections sheds light on historical and prevailing images of blacks in the area. Her diary articulates white fears of black insurrection, as well as fears about the impending Civil War. As Glazier reports, Wallace and her husband “were slave-owning unionists. They opposed secession, but at the same time were committed to slavery as an institution” (58). Indeed, within this chapter, Glazier clearly shows the paranoia of whites within the area during the antebellum period. This chapter also discusses the Kentucky Colonization Society, which was a vehicle by which whites in the area supported the emigration of free blacks to Liberia in an effort to keep free blacks from associating with black slaves. In examining this enterprise, Glazier not only shows the real reasons for this supposedly Christian missionary effort on the part of whites, but also discusses the reasons for its failure.

By looking at demography, commerce, and the area’s “allegiance” to the South, Glazier exposes the hypocrisy of the white ruling class. Although Kentucky never seceded from the Union, it has still always identified strongly with the South. Thus, as the work shows, in Hopkinsville there exists a racialized orientation to local history. Indeed, there is a historically rooted tension between the values of the Old South and those of the New South, even during the post-civil rights era. The Old South is rooted in a tradition of white racism and supremacy and a racial code of conduct and expectations. The New South is a vision of a land where the outmoded race-based traditions of the past have been discarded. However, the color line, though no longer the law of the land, is still very powerfully persistent in both memory and tradition. Citing examples of the history of segregation in Southern cemeteries, with separate burial grounds for whites and blacks, Glazier shows how this historical practice

affects the mind and consciousness of present day black residents. In their minds, these historically “white” cemeteries, are still “white.” Additionally, Glazier’s examination of the pain caused by miscegenation—of white men fathering black children and the curious familial relationships such unions spawned—also helps one to understand how black families negotiated a kind of “double-consciousness” with respect to knowledge without public acknowledgement of family background. As Glazier’s study examines the ways in which memory is enacted or kept alive, it paints a portrait of a persistent racial divide.

The racial tensions resulting from the post-civil rights era are made manifest both politically and socially. Examples of these tensions include occurrences such as a 2008 celebration of the Jefferson Davis bicentennial, controversy over the renaming of a major city street in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and the persistence of “white” and “black” cemeteries until the 1960s. The book also shares incidents such as the unsuccessful mayoral run of F. E. Whitney, a black leader in the area during the 1970s and 1980s, whose bid for the seat was doomed due to white racism. Glazier also discusses the black community’s drive toward social and psychic autonomy and explores the important role of black social institutions, such as black churches, family reunions, and fraternal organizations. It is within these organizations that local blacks maintain their ties to the past and also maintain and strengthen their collective cultural memory.

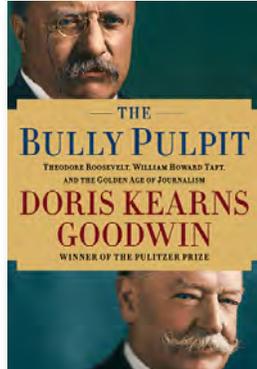
Been Coming through Some Hard Times ultimately shows the reader a community that was historically divided along racial lines. Moreover, Glazier’s study examines the numerous ways in which the area is still racially divided, in spite of a social façade that in some ways belies this division. This very readable and engaging book will help readers better understand the historical and racial dynamics at work in this Southern border town.

REVIEWED BY FRANK E. DOBSON JR., PH.D.

Goodwin, Doris Kearns. *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism.*

Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$22.00.

Historian and Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin has chosen the Progressive Era as the subject of her sixth book—a time when the federal government actively dealt with the economic and social problems wrought by the Industrial Revolution. Chief among them was the growing gulf between rich and poor and the power of money and massive corporations over every aspect of life. The parallels to the present day make this book especially timely, but Goodwin does not lecture. She tells a fascinating story of two men and how they used, or failed to use, the presidential “bully pulpit” to shape public opinion via the media. Goodwin’s core narrative describes the rise and fall of the friendship between President Theodore Roosevelt and his successor William Howard Taft, as well as the political impact of their eventual rift.



Most Americans have a strong impression of Teddy Roosevelt, the Rough Rider of the Spanish-American war, the boisterous public speaker, and the committed conservationist. He was the youngest president in history when he took office after the assassination of William McKinley, and even after two terms in office he remained wildly popular. Taft is less well known, famous mostly for his girth (although Ohioans know him as the great-grandfather of former governor Bob Taft). Goodwin paints full, even-handed, yet admiring portraits of both men from their childhoods through their deaths, focusing on their personal lives as well as their political ones. Taft emerges as an amiable, kind, highly principled but often insecure man driven by a devotion to justice. Roosevelt is gregarious, ambitious, charismatic, visionary, and volatile. A British viscount visiting the United States claimed he had seen “two tremendous works of nature in America—the Niagara Falls and Mr. Roosevelt.”

But it is the contrasts between the two men that make their friendship so remarkable. Roosevelt overcame

physical weakness with rigorous exercise and was intellectually voracious. Taft, gifted with a strong body, let his weight balloon, causing serious health problems. His intellectual achievements were motivated by a desire to please others, particularly his family. Roosevelt was a born politician, Taft a reluctant one, with a disposition more suited to a judge. His highest ambition was not the presidency, but the Supreme Court. Happily he ended his career as its chief justice, appointed by Warren G. Harding.

The contrasts extend to the men’s wives. Nellie Taft, an unconventional woman for her time, emerges as the force behind Taft, funneling her own ambitions into his career. She was poised to transform the role of First Lady when, shortly after Taft’s inauguration, she suffered a stroke and never fully recovered. Roosevelt’s wife Edith was extremely private, avoiding the limelight and the tumble of her husband’s political world.

Goodwin’s other major theme is the rise of investigative journalism. Roosevelt cultivated friendships with Sam McClure, editor of *McClure’s* magazine, and his stable of journalists: Ida Tarbell, Ray Stannard Baker, Lincoln Steffens, and William Allen White. Their in-depth reporting exposed corruption in government and, in the famous series by Ida Tarbell, the greed of John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil trust. Roosevelt relied on these journalists to shape public opinion so that the demand for reform came from Americans themselves.

As president, Taft was not comfortable at the bully pulpit, and the influence of serious journalism on policy-making waned, giving way to the sensational muckrakers. Taft was Roosevelt’s trusted and hand-picked successor; diplomatic where Roosevelt could be polarizing, he seemed an ideal choice to forward the progressive agenda. But the Cunningham Coal scandal and Taft’s support of a controversial tariff drove a wedge between the two men. Feeling personally betrayed, Roosevelt turned against Taft with a vengeance, running against him as a third-party candidate in 1912. They split the Republican vote, and Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat, was elected.

The falling-out between Roosevelt and Taft short-circuited the Progressive movement, yet the legacy of the two presidents includes anti-trust legislation, regulations ensuring food and drug safety, child labor

laws, amendments providing for a federal income tax and the direct election of senators, and the creation of the national parks system.

In 1918, shortly before Roosevelt's death, the two men finally reconciled, and there Goodwin's lengthy but deeply satisfying narrative comes full-circle.

Despite its length (750 pages), *The Bully Pulpit* never stalls or gets bogged down in excessive detail. Goodwin has the admirable gift of uniting the epic and the ordinary in her telling of history. Once again her readers are led to marvel at how the personalities of our leaders, their upbringing, their private lives, and their shortcomings as well as their gifts have profoundly affected the course of our nation's history.

REVIEWED BY LISA KLEIN

Hall, Sheryl Smart.
Warren G. Harding & the Marion Daily Star: How Newspapering Shaped a President.

The History Press (Charleston, SC)
2014. PB \$19.99.



This slim volume follows Warren G. Harding's career as a newspaper editor and owner in the small town of Marion, Ohio. Before his political career and the scandals that plagued his term in office, Harding was a prominent businessman running his newspapers, writing thoughtful and insightful news articles and editorials, and supporting local causes. A staunch Republican and newspaperman, he made his living printing legal advertisements, rolls and lists for local government offices, job notices, and all the local news that was fit to print. With a good head for business and experience running successful daily and weekly papers, Harding was set to launch his political career—first locally, then statewide, and finally as president. Proud to be a newspaperman, Harding earned the moniker “The Printer President.”

As a former reporter and Sunday edition editor for the *Marion Star*, Hall had direct access to the archives of the *Marion Daily Star* and the weekly *Marion Star*. This book is full of quotes, photographs, and events that

shaped Harding's career. Written in a straightforward narrative, Hall recounts events in Harding's life from his early days in Morrow County, Ohio, where he was a printer's devil at the *Caledonia Argus*. He held several other newspaper jobs through boyhood and college before he purchased the *Marion Daily Star*. This newspaper shaped his life and future for the next thirty-nine years.

Local, regional, national, and international headlines are scattered throughout the fourteen chapters of the book as Hall traces Harding's career from local businessman to local political representative, from state senator to lieutenant governor, and from U.S. senator to president. Moving between Ohio and Washington, D.C., Hall weaves the newspaper into every career move in Harding's life. Readers may be familiar with the scandals in Harding's life such as his “natural born” daughter and the Teapot Dome scandal, but likely know little about his publishing career. Take a few hours and delve into this fascinating view of Harding, the Printer President.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

FICTION

Costa, Shelley. *You Cannoli Die Once.*

Pocket Books (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$7.99.

Eva Angelotta, master chef at the Miracolo Restaurant, is passionate about her cooking, her cousins (most of whom work at the restaurant), and her grandmother, Maria Pia. After she finds Maria Pia's boyfriend, Arlen Mather, dead on the kitchen floor and a highly collectible Caruso record beneath him, she can't believe the police arrest her grandmother. However, there's nothing like family to pitch in during a crisis, and that's what Eva's cousins do, following up leads even the police don't investigate. When Eva involves her sexy neighbor, attorney Joe Beck, in the investigation, the mystery heats up. Who killed Mather? Why was he clutching the record? Believe it or not, these two mysteries are connected. Leave it to Eva and Beck to solve the crime.



As cozy mysteries go, this one is cute. The dialogue is light, the mystery is solvable, the investigation is believable, and no one is beaten up. Eva and her cousins grow on you by the end of the book. If you are expecting Eva to tangle with the police, you'll be disappointed. Unlike most cozy mysteries, Eva doesn't have an ongoing feud or relationship with law enforcement, unless you count Beck.

The menus will make your mouth water and stomach rumble—particularly the cannoli, which Maria Pia refuses to serve but Eva loves to make. Costa includes the recipe at the end of the book for those who want to tempt their tastebuds.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

You might also like:

Costa, Shelley. *Basil Instinct (Miracolo Restaurant Book 2)*. Pocket Books (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$7.99.

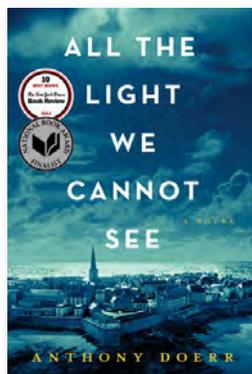
Doerr, Anthony. *All the Light We Cannot See*.

Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$27.00.

Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris and spends her days with him at the Museum of Natural History, where he is in charge of its multitude of keys. One of the museum's treasures is a diamond known as the Sea of Flames. Days after hearing the legend of its power both to heal and destroy, six-year-old Marie-Laure goes blind.

Werner Pfennig is growing up with his younger sister Jutta in a German orphanage, where he discovers he has a talent for fixing radios. As the Nazis consolidate their power in the 1930s, the two children secretly listen to French broadcasts that widen their narrowing world. *Open your eyes, and see what you can with them before they close forever*, the voice on the radio says.

When the Nazis occupy Paris, Marie-Laure and her father flee to her Uncle Etienne's house in the walled city of Saint-Malo. Unbeknownst to Marie-Laure, her father has been entrusted with the diamond—or is it a copy?—in an effort to keep it out of Nazi hands. The



father builds Marie-Laure a scale model of the city to help her navigate the real one, and he hides the jewel in the model of the uncle's house. Etienne keeps a secret radio in the attic, a risk for all of them.

Werner's talent earns him a place in a technical school for Hitler Youth. There he witnesses sickening brutality. At the age of sixteen he is sent out along with a gigantic killer, Volkheimer, to root out those transmitting messages for the resistance. This eventually takes him to Saint-Malo.

Meanwhile, a Nazi sergeant suffering from a fatal cancer seeks out the French gem. He locates the forgeries one by one until he arrives at the house in Saint-Malo where Marie-Laure now resides alone, as her father and uncle have both been taken to prison camps.

This is where the novel actually begins: with the bombing and siege of Saint-Malo in August 1944. Here the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner converge. Marie hides in the attic and radios for help, reading aloud from *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*. Werner and Volkheimer are trapped under the debris of a collapsed building when Werner's radio picks up her voice.

We know how the war will end, of course. But what happens to Werner and Marie-Laure and her father and her uncle and Jutta and the German sergeant and the jewel? Doerr keeps these questions alive by alternately narrating the events of August, 1944 and earlier ones. In short, lyrical chapters, the perspective alternates among characters as their lives simultaneously unfold in different parts of Europe. This and the present-tense narration give the story a strong forward momentum. The final chapters reach into the present, resolving, though not tidily, all the threads of the narrative.

The treasures of this book are manifold, and the reader's discovery of them is like the Nazi sergeant's quest for the gem with mythical powers. Your life begins to depend on the outcome, so engrossing is the novel. Doerr's writing absolutely sparkles, stuns and shocks, then uplifts. It is richly sensual, appealing to sight, smell, touch, and particularly hearing—a sense both Werner and the blind Marie-Laure depend on. Doerr's crafting of language parallels the father's crafting of the Saint-Malo model, which survives even the destruction of the actual city. Themes and motifs (such as the key)

occur on levels both tiny and cosmic. For example, the interrelatedness of all life is conveyed as Werner listens to scientific broadcasts originating from Marie-Laure's grandfather that inspire him to the work that then imperils the French Resistance.

Doerr has written a magnificent novel that deserves to be read far and wide, shared among friends, and cried over and discussed for years. I'd recommend this book not only for adults, but also for mature teenagers; after all, Marie-Laure and Werner are only sixteen and eighteen during the climactic events of the siege of Saint-Malo. The losses they suffer, the wrenching choices they make (especially Werner), and the bravery they exhibit in the face of mortal danger make for a compelling, cathartic, and unforgettable read.

REVIEWED BY LISA KLEIN

George, Elizabeth. *Just One Evil Act*.

Dutton (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$29.95.

Warren, Ohio, native Elizabeth George is a literary superstar, writing intense novels that happen to be mysteries as well. There's nothing formulaic about George's approach. Her books have sold many millions of copies, and she has won several awards.

The *Inspector Lynley* series features a handsome young lord who has worked hard at Scotland Yard to get where he is, despite his pedigreed background. His partner is Sgt. Barbara Havers, whose personal appearance resembles a walking representation of a clothing dumpster, and who has appalling personal habits. She comes from the working class and has a street-edgy attitude toward the well born and a blurt-it-right-out mouth; both of these characteristics often get her into trouble personally and professionally. But she can also be very smart and insightful, bringing a lot to her and Lynley's pursuit of justice. They're an effective team.

In *Just One Evil Act*, Havers's emotions often get out of hand and land her in trouble despite Lynley's efforts to calm her down and help her see a larger perspective. Their partnership means a lot to the inspector, and he has to walk a very fine, crazy line between friendship and professional responsibility.

Havers's neighbor and close friend, Taymullah Azhar, has a daughter named Hadiyyah who's gone missing.

The nine-year-old and Havers are best friends. Havers's feelings for Taymullah are mixed; she insists they're no more than friends, but Lynley believes she's in love with Azhar. The story unfolds in a manner that indicates that Lynley may be right.

When evidence suggests that the girl was kidnapped and taken to Lucca, Italy, the sergeant's manipulation of the case begins. Havers becomes more than just a detective investigating a kidnapping; she becomes personally involved, which distorts her professional perspective.

Parallel investigations take place in London and Italy, and inspectors in both countries must deal with difficult supervisors who have their own issues and careers to think of. The story moves from one country to the other, eventually taking Lynley to Italy as the police liaison between the British mother of the missing girl and the Italian police department. When a murder complicates the case, the two crimes are concurrently investigated by Havers, Lynley, and the Italian police. Havers believes that not enough effort is being put into the investigation and ignores her superintendent's direct orders to pursue the case no further. She recommends that Azhar hire a private detective, which has unpleasant repercussions and adds complications to the plot.

Rivalry within the detective agency also adds stress to Havers's pursuit of a solution, while the relationship between the police and the press (particularly the way Havers and the scandal-sheet reporters use each other) provides another major storyline. At times it feels like the author juggles too many plotlines for maximum enjoyment, but she's good at what she does—keeping the reader's eyes on the pages.

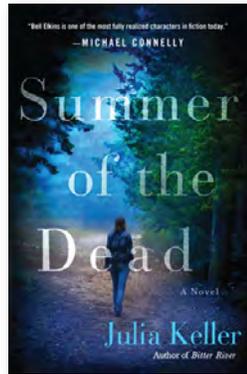
I liked this book, all 722 pages of it. But—and with many readers of the Lynley novels, there's always a *but*—ever since George killed off Lynley's new wife via a random shooting in *Careless in Red*, the enjoyment isn't as great. Readers have become aware that anything can happen to favorite characters at the author's whim. We see the trap doors as we read our way past them, knowing one could open up and snatch someone quite unexpectedly. (There's some of that in *Just One Evil Act* with a major character, who ultimately behaves in an uncharacteristic way.) In this book, Lynley is facing his first Christmas without his wife; we readers regret her absence from the lord's life.

I strongly recommend this series, but this book was too ambitious and seemed to drag on a bit—even as I acknowledge that George fills the pages quite well. Start with *A Great Deliverance* and you will be pleased to be in the hands of an expert writer.

REVIEWED BY GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN

Keller, Julia. *Summer of the Dead*.
Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$25.99.

Welcome back to summer in Acker’s Gap, West Virginia, where the scenery is beautiful, the air is humid, and three seemingly random murders puzzle local law enforcement. First a man is murdered in his driveway in the middle of the day, then a man walking along the highway late at night is stabbed multiple times. When county prosecutor Bell Elkins drives to a rural bar at 2 a.m.



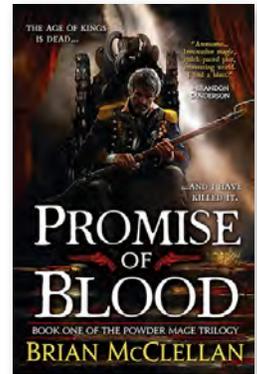
to pick up her sister, a man standing right next to them is murdered. When will the killings stop? Are the murders connected? Bell and Sheriff Nicholas Fogelson race to find the killer or killers as hysteria mounts in small-town Appalachia. Who is keeping secrets in this dying coal town? What are the motives behind the murders? Wending its way among the murders is the strained relationship between Bell and her sister Shirley.

Keller’s highly descriptive language forces the reader to slow down and savor the beauty of the mountains and the tension of the manhunt. Readers acquainted with Keller’s illustrative writing style and Acker’s Gap will savor the details, tangents, and side-trips. This third mystery featuring Elkins and Fogelson picks up where *Bitter River* left off and continues their fight to protect the residents of their county from harm.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

McClellan, Brian. *Promise of Blood: Book One of the Powder Mage Trilogy*.

Orbit Books (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$23.99.



How can you resist a book that begins “The age of kings is dead... and I have killed it?” McClellan has written a swashbuckling, gunslinging fantasy that will captivate readers. Powder mages can control gunpowder and bullet trajectories when they ingest the gunpowder. When Field Marshall and Powder Mage Tamas and his troops overthrow the king and his aristocrats, they are in for the fight of their lives. After beheading every nobleman in the land, Tamas must foil subsequent uprisings by priests, mages, and sorcerers living in the capital city of Adro and prevent the enemy Kez from invading and destroying his tenuous hold on the city. In the meantime, Tamas sends his son and expert marksman Taniel to foil a plot to bring back the nine gods. In a third major storyline, Adamat, a retired police inspector, is hired by Tamas to find a traitor in their midst. Just when you think the action-packed story will end, another twist appears in the form of Kresimir, one of the nine gods.

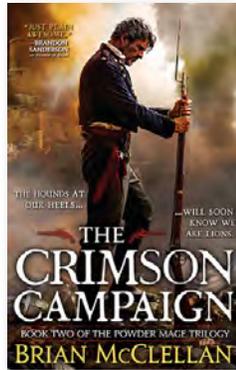
Conspiracies, betrayal, and magic are woven throughout the characters and the three storylines. Can Tamas retain control of Adro? Will Taniel prevent Kresimir’s arrival on the planet? Will Adamat uncover the traitor? Readers must stick with the book to the very end to find out. Want more? The next installment of the *Powder Mage* trilogy is *The Crimson Campaign*, where the fight for Adro—and survival—continues.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

McClellan, Brian. *The Crimson Campaign: Book Two of the Powder Mage Trilogy*.

Orbit Books (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$26.00.

McClellan’s newest book picks up where volume one of the *Powder Mage* trilogy (*Promise of Blood*) left off. Field Marshall Tamas is leading his troops against Kez forces, his son Taniel is unconscious after battling the god Kresimir, and former police inspector Adamat is searching for his family. Slowly, the three threads begin to come together. Tamas crafts a strike against the Kez only to be caught behind enemy lines with two battalions, most of the powder mages, and no supplies. He embarks on a long fighting retreat through the mountains as he and his soldiers attempt to enter Adro from the north. Taniel, regaining his health and his ambition to defeat the Kez and the gods, rejoins the fighting at the front. Thwarted at every move and forced out of the army, Taniel begins a campaign of his own to kill Kresimir and protect Adro from the Kez. Meanwhile, Adamat teams up with the Privileged Bo in an effort to protect Adro from the inside.



In each chapter, two or three of the plot lines are advanced. Every time there’s a step forward, the plot shifts, making the action somewhat jerky and disjointed as the tension builds and falls over and over again. Despite this, the story will engage readers who want to know what happens next, especially if read in longer sittings.

Replete with powder mages, battles, and more battles, *The Crimson Campaign* is full of blood and intrigue. The third book of the trilogy, *The Autumn Republic*, is due out in February 2015.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN

Tyler, Tara. *Pop Travel*.
Curiosity Quills Press (Reston, VA)
2013. PB \$14.99.



Pop Travel is a science-fiction thriller that will leave readers guessing until the very end. The story opens in a futuristic society controlled by the government, where high-tech gadgets and the teleportation method of “pop travel” are all the rage. Cooper, a private investigator, is still reeling from the death of his wife, who was killed in a plane crash after following his advice not to pop travel when it was first introduced. When a client comes to him with a theory that pop travel is dangerous, Cooper learns that his fears about the technology may have been well founded. He gets involved with the case and goes head to head with the government to uncover a conspiracy before his loved ones are harmed. The story takes Cooper on a wild ride with laser-gun fighting, globe trekking, and high-tech sleuthing.

The action-packed story is almost chaotic, but Tyler seamlessly controls the plot and doesn’t let the story get too muddled. She succinctly explains what pop travel is in the introductory pages of the story and sticks to a focused storyline—to uncover the pop travel conspiracy. Additionally, Tyler takes the time to develop her characters, which is no easy feat with such a fast-paced story. Within the first few pages, Tyler introduces Cooper, gives his background, and foreshadows the events to come. As Cooper gets more entrenched in the conspiracy, the book gains momentum and doesn’t let up until the final pages.

I really appreciated Tyler’s in-depth look into this futuristic society. She continually reminds her readers with references to the advanced technology, and her examples are blended effortlessly within the story—not added as an afterthought: “He had noticed the small video camera in a corner of the ceiling, reminding him surveillance had overtaken the city.” She also shows humor in her writing through the minds of the characters; more than once I found myself chuckling aloud. However, my favorite parts were when I thought I had the plot figured out and Tyler would catch me by surprise!

Tyler’s well paced story will keep readers on the edge of their seats. She puts time and effort into her character development, dialogue, and plot, and it certainly shows. *Pop Travel* is an easy and enjoyable read, and highly recommended.

REVIEWED BY VERONICA DEMARCO

You might also like:

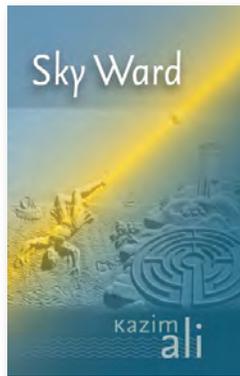
Tyler, Tara. *Broken Branch Falls*. Curiosity Quills (Reston, VA) 2014. PB \$14.99. (middle grade fantasy)

POETRY

Ali, Kazim. *Sky Ward*.

Wesleyan Univ. Press (Middletown, CT) 2013. PB \$24.95.

Dichotomies abound in Kazim Ali’s marvelous new collection, *Sky Ward*. “I want to snake-handle but I want to be bitten,” says the persona in “Epiphany.” “[B]ut what do I want/To rise again from the ocean or be buried alive in the surge and sleep,” asks the speaker in “Prayer.” The presence of two poems with religious connotations should come as no surprise in a collection entitled *Sky Ward*. These poems are inspired as much by spirituality as they are mythology, particularly Greek mythology and the stories of Icarus and Prometheus.



Ali, an associate professor of creative writing and literature at Oberlin, alludes to Icarus in “Launch” when he describes “a hagiography of feathers glued/ to your sin-singed skin/aim for the sun, singing/in longing unforgotten tongues,” and suggests Prometheus’ punishment in “Frozen”: “The strongest man in the world is on his way to release me/But what happens when a frozen man is touched by fire/Upon release I may disappear.” There is no period at the end of Ali’s original; Prometheus has disappeared.

Ali brings together his tremendous insights into mythology and his use of dichotomies in the stunning final poem, “The Promise of Blue.” Writing of Icarus, Ali offers this: “He still knows the secret—that at every moment in the body and breath/One can still plummet

and plunge and soar.” A perfect ending to a great collection.

Ali is sometimes too fond of wordplay (“weigh me down and need me/saint sufi anyone knead me” from “The Nowhere House”) and using words that begin with the prefix *un-* (unwing, unaware, unwritten, unwise, unhomed, etc.). However, he more than makes up for this with his amazing use of language and his profound questions and insights. In “Journey to Providence,” Ali offers that “[w]hen the journal of music gave way/to the journal of pain the pages curled/themselves into fists and wept.” Or this, from “Autobiography”: “...I hardly know/the edge of the sidewalk a bare consonant/of the city’s harsh sentence.”

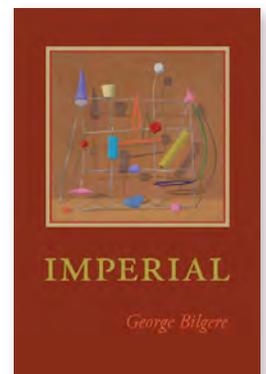
It is his insights, touched by the grace of his language, that will linger. In “Rapture,” Ali asks, without the benefit of a question mark, “In the battle to own yourself/whom do you fight.” And in “Ocean Street,” he wonders, “...how my tenuous prayerboard can a supplicant balancing/on the surface know anything about depth.” Provocative questions; wonderful poetry.

REVIEWED BY CHARLES ELLENBOGEN

Bilgere, George. *Imperial*.

Univ. of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2014. PB \$15.95.

Life is a yo-yo, and George Bilgere’s new collection of poems takes the reader through the ups and downs and the cute and not-so-cute tricks of life through the lens of everyday life, work, and family relationships. Bilgere’s work often honors the dead, and *Imperial* opens with one of my favorite poems. In “As Requested,” Bilgere describes how he put the cremated remains of his late, beloved aunt to rest: “I took the rough shards,/the broken handfuls of my aunt/and threw them from Westminster Bridge./With her usual grace she descended,” a phrase that indicates the kind of person she was and how she lived her life. Bilgere also hints at another side of her by noting a “love” of “miserable cold English winters,” which comes as a surprise shift in tone at the end of the poem.



In “Yard Sale,” Bilgere sees a set of encyclopedias offered for sale and imagines the family history behind them: post-WWII parents who bought them for their children, who used them once or twice for reports. Much later, those same children send the parents to a nursing home, “And now the complete and unabridged/*Encyclopedia Britannica*/bulging with important knowledge/is sitting on a card table in a light rain,” underscoring the inevitable passing of time that takes each generation from birth to old age.

There were moments when I laughed out loud, usually when the poet was poking fun at himself. “Bus Boy” begins “O teenage bus boy of the summer dusk!” The highbrow tone for such a menial job contrasts with mundane tasks such as “[l]ugging your gray tub of swill,/bathed in slop and ooze and bits of spaghetti.” The poet puts himself in the poem in his “tennis shorts and Obama T-shirt...on my way to watch game three/of the NBA finals at our local microbrewery,” then shifts to empathy: “Like you, I was of the slime of alleys.” Bilgere shares his own long-ago bus boy dreams of “a certain waitress,/and of driving a fork into the forehead/of the night manager,/and of spitting in the soup/of plump, complacent, well-dressed diners/who snapped their fingers at me,” zeroing in with a poet’s precision on the challenges of working an entry-level job where employees are often treated like “the slime of alleys.”

In “Coupons,” Bilgere reminded me of my love for my late maternal grandmother with a poem about his own grandmother and his task of helping her cut out coupons when her hands were too crippled by arthritis to do it. Once again, with the brevity that comes from decades of honing his craft, he shares a condensed version of her life in a few lines: “Her husband, dark eyes/and black moustache, watched us/from his silver frame.//He was a streetcar operator/in New Orleans when one day/a pretty sixteen-year-old/stepped up and paid her fare./ He smiled at her.//‘And that,’ said Grandma,/‘was that.’”

One constant in the collection is Bilgere’s relationship with his father, expressed in images ending with one scotch after another, the liquor the one constant in a man the poet obviously loved, but didn’t quite understand: “[m]y father would lift me/to the ceiling with his big hands/and ask, *How’s the weather up there?*/ And it was good, the weather/of being in his hands, his breath/of scotch and cigarettes, his face/smiling from the world below.” It’s that cherished moment he passes

down to his own son at the end of “Weather,” which ends the book: “my little boy/looking down from his flight/ below the ceiling...his eyes wide and already staring/ into the distance behind the man/asking him again and again,/*How’s the weather up there?*”

Like a young man working with his first Imperial yo-yo, Bilgere’s collection will take you from one place in time to another within a stanza. The shifts in tone from serious to humorous to ironic occur seamlessly in the hands of a poet who, when it comes to his passion for words, is still the young man we meet throughout this work. Take a moment, get out your yo-yo, and spend some time in his world.

REVIEWED BY MARY E. WEEMS, PH.D.

YOUNG ADULT

Chima, Cinda Williams.

The Enchanter Heir.

Hyperion Books (New York, NY)

2013. HC \$18.99.

The Sorcerer Heir.

Hyperion Books (New York, NY)

2014. HC \$18.99.



The Enchanter Heir and *The Sorcerer Heir* are companion novels in the *Heir Chronicles* series by Cinda Williams Chima. The *Heir Chronicles* feature a world of Weir—people with magical heart stones whose gifts divide them into the five guilds of Wizards, Warriors, Enchanters, Sorcerers, and Seers—who live alongside the non-gifted in the modern day.

Set after the events of the first three *Heir Chronicles*, *The Enchanter Heir* and *The Sorcerer Heir* tell the story of Jonah and Emma. Jonah is an enchanter by birth, but his Weirstone was damaged in the Thorn Hill Massacre when he was young—a mass poisoning of a magical community in Brazil, supposedly at the hands of the power-hungry wizard guild. The event killed all the adults and left the young surviving “savants” with unique, and often dangerous, powers. Jonah can kill with his touch, making him deadly to both his friends and family. The gift—or curse—makes him a

valuable assassin for the Nightshade organization, but it also caused him to accidentally kill his little sister. Jonah loathes his power and struggles constantly with his guilty conscience. Emma is a free-spirit teen in Memphis who has great musical gifts. When her grandfather dies under mysterious circumstances, she moves to Cleveland to live with her estranged father. Her father tells her that she, too, is Weir and a survivor of the Thorn Hill Massacre. All at once, Emma's world is full of magic, secrets, and too many lies to count.

Jonah's and Emma's lives collide at the Anchorage, an institution where Thorn Hill survivor savants are given care and education. Their shared love of music brings them together, but Jonah's deadly touch keeps them apart. Jonah fears he will destroy the girl he is falling for, and Emma grows suspicious that Jonah may be to blame for the deaths of those she loves. The rise of rebellious shades only complicates things further. Emma learns that when the Thorn Hill survivors pass away, they become "shades," or spirits who have a nasty habit of possessing cadavers and becoming the walking undead. Jonah's role in Nightshade is to hunt down the shades and put them to rest. But the shades have become brazen, killing wizards both for revenge of the Thorn Hill Massacre and for the precious blood magic that is released when magical Weir die. The blood magic allows shades to inhabit cadavers longer for a second chance at life, and causes relief for the suffering, still-living Thorn Hill survivors like Jonah and his brother.

A page-turning story unfolds as shades rise, the Weir fight back, and Jonah and Emma try to uncover the truth. What really happened at Thorn Hill, and how can the damage be undone? Can Jonah and Emma right the wrongs of the past before war breaks out and more lives are lost? The clock is ticking, and one wrong move will have them both joining the undead army.

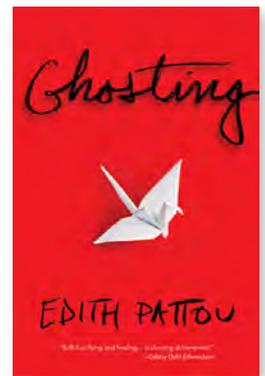
Both *The Enchanter Heir* and *The Sorcerer Heir* are great stories for anyone who loves reading fantasy novels. They are meaty books with a wealth of characters and world-building, as well as intricate, twisty plots that keep readers guessing until the end. For anyone who is intimidated by magical words and concepts, Chima's website has a convenient glossary that explains all the terminology. The glossary also provides a handy refresher for anyone who read the first three *Heir Chronicles* and wants to jump back into the series. Several years have passed since the release

of the first trilogy and the two new companion novels, and I was quite grateful for the online index so I could quickly reacquaint myself with Chima's unique magical world. It is important to read the books in the order they were released, with *The Enchanter Heir* first and *The Sorcerer Heir* second. *The Enchanter Heir* ends on a bit of a cliffhanger, and *The Sorcerer Heir* picks the story right up. The two books combined make up a sizeable 900+ page experience, but Chima's skill in storytelling kept me eagerly turning the pages. This is a must-read pair of novels for anyone seeking a rich, fast-paced, and distinctive fantasy experience. I sincerely hope Chima decides to continue the *Heir Chronicles* for many years to come.

REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS

Pattou, Edith. *Ghosting*. Skyscape (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

In her latest novel, Edith Pattou weaves the lives of eight characters together in a gripping story of a childish prank gone awry. At the heart of the story is Emma. She is about to enter her senior year of high school while her younger sister, Faith, is going to be a freshman. Emma is the girl everyone loves, says yes to, and follows. The weekend before school starts, Emma leaves her sister at home to go to a party. The evening ends with an unlikely group of six teenagers in a car, alcohol, and a dare. The first half of the book builds up to the dare: the anticipation, the suspense, and the result. The second half of the book helps the reader unravel how such an event could happen, and is a reminder that life is unpredictable.



Ghosting is written in lyrical free verse, and I was skeptical about the format at first. It worked beautifully. The snippets of each character's life provide insight beyond the high school "stereotype" they fall into. The reader glimpses their personality, family life, and clues about how the events of the night transpired. Pattou draws the reader in until the last page of this story about peer pressure, being true to yourself, and finding a way to heal.

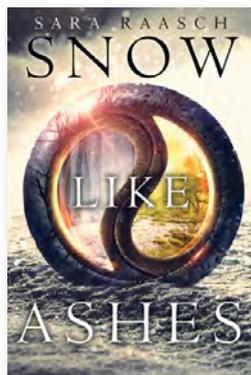
REVIEWED BY ANDREA HALL

Raasch , Sara. *Snow Like Ashes.*

Balzer & Bray (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

The magical land of Primoria is divided into eight Kingdoms: four Seasons and four Rhythms. The country is rife with war—the result of the King of Spring overtaking the other countries and enslaving their people. The worst attack was against Winter, which fell to Spring almost sixteen years ago; only eight people escaped.

The story follows Meira, a sixteen-year-old refugee of Winter. She only knows her land through stories and the memories of others. Her life has been spent as a nomad, roaming Primoria with the other seven refugees, gathering information, and searching for a way to save their country. Their hope lies in the pieces of a broken locket, the magical conduit of Winter's royal line that can help the people of Winter fight back.



As Meira becomes a pawn in others' political games, she is called to serve her country in ways she never imagined. She has always tried to forge her own path, fighting for a home she doesn't remember. As she battles against the King of Spring, uncovers the history of Primoria's magic, and finds herself in a love triangle, her loyalty is tested. Meira must decide what sacrifices she is willing to make to save her country while discovering who she is and what a homeland can mean to its people.

Raasch unveils a beautiful world in her debut novel. While having countries based on seasons is fascinating, I did find it a bit confusing at the start of the book. This was soon at the back of my mind. Though Meira is an orphan, she has found a family in the other refugees. It is wonderful to see those familial interactions and challenges. Not a girl to back down, Meira searches for a way to stay true to herself in seemingly impossible situations. Through the twists and turns of the book, Meira doesn't disappoint. *Snow Like Ashes* is the first in a trilogy; I'm already looking forward to hearing when the next book will be released and continuing Meira's journey with her.

REVIEWED BY ANDREA HALL

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming.*

Sarah Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

This eloquent, free-verse memoir is the winner of the 2014 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. In it Jacqueline Woodson reveals what it was like for her growing up as a black girl in the 1960s and 1970s in an America "caught between Black and White." Born in Columbus, Ohio, Woodson and her siblings spent much of their childhood in Greenville, South Carolina, with their grandparents before moving to Brooklyn to reunite with their mother.



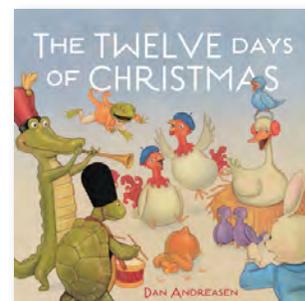
The absorbing poems, full of arresting details and vivid imagery, pull the reader into the heart of Woodson's strong, proud, and loving family. Her choice of events and memories to recount is brilliant, incorporating important historical context, but keeping the focus on the family and on her own evolution from a child who loved stories but found reading difficult to the superb writer she has become.

MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S

Andreasen, Dan. *The Twelve Days of Christmas.*

Sleeping Bear Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2012. HC \$14.99.

This book relates to the classic Christmas song and starts out with "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..." and ends with "On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me..." Every day has a symbol. For instance, the sixth day is six geese a-laying, and on that page the book has all the symbols from the first six days. Some of the symbols are animals, and some are objects.



I think this book is for children from ages two through seven. I say this because of the pictures. They are very kid-friendly and have a warm look to them. The pictures are very colorful and funny. On the last page of the book is an illustration of a partridge that is all worn out from the singing. I thought it was very cute.

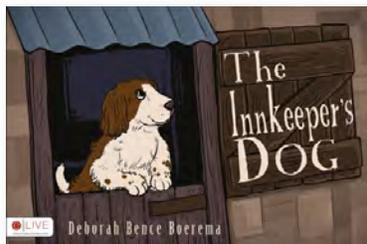
REVIEWED BY CYNTHIA B. ALEXANDER, GRADE 4

Borema, Deborah Bence.

The Innkeeper's Dog.

Tate Publishing (Mustang, OK) 2013. PB \$8.99.

The Innkeeper's Dog is about Thaniel, a dog that lives in a stable in the town of Bethlehem. Thaniel thinks that he is not special and does not belong in the stable where his fellow animal



friends live. He is sad that he didn't get to be there in the stable when a special baby, Jesus, was born. He heard that kings had come and everyone gave gifts but him. The donkey said that he carried the baby's mother on her long trip to Bethlehem. The sheep said he gave his wool for a warm blanket. The dove said she cooed the baby to sleep. The cow said it gave the baby a soft bed of hay in which to sleep. The more the animals tell about the presents they gave, the more Thaniel feels weak, jealous, and not special. What could he offer to the baby?

Thaniel meets a boy, the innkeeper's son. The boy plays with Thaniel in the meadow almost every day. One day, there is a little bit of danger. There is a wolf, and Thaniel tries to protect the innkeeper's son by barking at it. The boy notices that a patch of Thaniel's fur is missing. He tells Thaniel that without that missing fur he wouldn't have known not to take his flock into the thorns and would have been attacked by the wolf.

Thaniel feels special when he is with the boy, but not when he returns to the stable. His mother tries to comfort him. Then, his fellow stable friends explain that he really had been there the night Jesus was born. He had been born the same day. In fact, HE was the gift that the innkeeper's son gave to the new baby and his family! The animals explain to Thaniel that he has the same gifts they do, but used them in a different way when he helped

and protected the boy. Thaniel finally realizes that he is special and does offer special gifts to the world.

We liked this book. It taught us to always believe in yourself even if you think you are not special. We also liked that it showed real kindness and strength. Now we know how we should treat others in a real way. We also realized that sometimes people don't recognize their own special gifts to the world and they should start reflecting on them more.

This book had a really nice plot, but contained many words that not all kids might know. Younger readers will really like this book because of its kind characters. We would recommend this book to anyone who likes animals and being brave. We also recommend this book as a gift for someone who may be feeling down or sad about themselves. This book is great for ages three and up. It is a great story that we would love to share with all of our friends and family. Feeling good about yourself can be magnetic with this book. Even though it is a picture book, it has a lot of information and text: some about becoming friends; some about helping each other; and most importantly, advice about not letting others convince you that you are not special or don't belong.

REVIEWED BY LANE SHARFIN, GRADE 4, & TRACY L. KESSLER

Gerber, Carole. Illus. by Jeffrey Ebbeler.

The Twelve Days of Christmas in Ohio.

Sterling Children's Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$12.95..

In *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Ohio*, Megan visits her cousin Matt in Ohio at Christmas time. She is introduced to the many cool and interesting facts about Ohio as Matt and his parents take Megan with them to explore the winter activities around the state. Megan writes



letters to her parents telling them about historical sites, parks, landmarks, museums, famous people, recreational activities, and other seasonal events.

The text of the book is both very readable and full of information, and the design keeps the reader

entertained. There are many engaging activities as well. Whether it is looking at Jeffrey Ebbeler's colorful illustrations, finding the cardinal hidden throughout the story, or singing "The 12 Days of Christmas in Ohio," the reader becomes involved in the story while having fun learning about Ohio and its many places to visit.

We would recommend *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Ohio* to young readers so they can learn more about our state. Our fourth grade class liked this book a lot and especially enjoyed singing the song that goes with each page and each of Megan's adventures. This book makes a good holiday read-aloud and gift. Our fourth-grade teacher strongly suggests that other teachers who study Ohio with their students read this book to their classes. This is a holiday and Ohio history book that will be enjoyed by all ages and families.

REVIEWED BY MS. STIVERSON'S CLASS, GRADE 4

Houts, Michelle. *Winterfrost*.

Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2014. HC \$16.99.

The frosty country of Denmark is rich in tradition and magic—at least that's what Bettina's grandfather, Farfar, always believed. And his favorite magical beings were the tiny nisse that were said to live in farmers' barns, watching over the family and animals. But the legend also said the creatures could be mischievous when offended, so Farfar always made sure the Larsen family appeased their invisible friend with a bowl of rice pudding on Christmas Eve.



At the skeptical age of twelve, Bettina isn't so sure the nisse actually exist, and as the first Christmas approaches since Farfar passed away, she isn't feeling the magic of the season. When Mor and Far are called away on Christmas Eve, Bettina is left at home to watch the farm and her baby sister, Pia. In the commotion of her parents' departure, the rice pudding offering is forgotten, and a young nisse named Klakke is not appeased. At first Klakke plays a few small tricks around the Larsen farm, but before he knows it, he swipes baby Pia and runs off into the forest. Though Klakke means no harm and soon realizes his mistake, Pia is stolen by someone much more sinister before Klakke can return the baby girl to

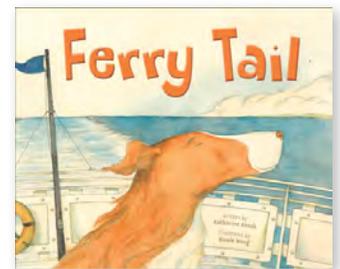
Bettina. The human and nisse worlds collide as the hunt for Pia begins, and Bettina finds herself in the middle of a fairy tale much like the ones Farfar always told. But dark secrets, strange magic, and her new mouse-sized body won't stop Bettina from getting Pia back, even if she has to travel through a winter wonderland—and wasteland—to find her.

Winterfrost is the perfect book to read curled up by the fire on a cold winter day. Bettina's quest to find her baby sister is full of adventure, humor, and heart, with a dash of mystery that will keep readers guessing until the end. The nisse realm is rich and vibrant, feeling just as real as the ordinary world. Young readers will be charmed by the clever, caring nisse and will root for Bettina as she braves the unknown to rescue her sister. It's a great choice for anyone who enjoys tales about other cultures, fantasy adventures, and books about finding courage from within. *Winterfrost* is a lovely story that will have readers believing in magic until the very last page.

REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS

Kenah, Katharine. *Ferry Tail*.

Sleeping Bear Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2014. HC \$16.99.



Ferry Tail is a heartwarming picture book written by Ohioan Katharine Kenah with illustrations by Nicole Wong. Walter the dog has big responsibilities on the ferry. He fetches the Captain's newspaper, tastes the Cook's bacon, and keeps the Engineer company. Life would be perfect, if it weren't for Cupcake—the Captain's annoying, fluffy cat. One day Cupcake does all of Walter's jobs and earns him a scolding. Poor Walter decides to run away to see if anyone needs his services on land. But life on solid ground is tougher than Walter thinks, and it takes an unexpected friend to make him realize that the ferry is his true home.

This picture book is a delightful read for children and adults. The themes of friendship, finding one's home, and the need to feel loved and appreciated make this the perfect book for children experiencing changes, such as a new sibling in the family or moving to a new place. The charming watercolor illustrations complement the mood

of the story and are full of details; children will have a lot of fun discovering new surprises during each reading of Walter's journey. Fans of animal stories will particularly enjoy the fuzzy cast of characters and root for the adorable underdog.

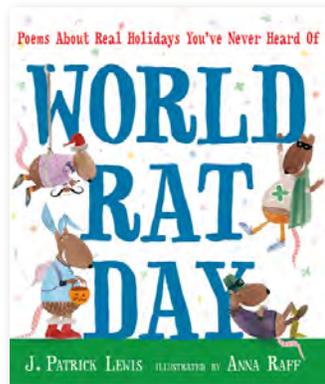
Ferry Tail is a great book that will appeal to a wide variety of readers. With an uplifting story, lovely illustrations, and endearing characters, this animal lover highly recommends setting sail with *Ferry Tail*.

REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS

Lewis, J. Patrick.
World Rat Day.

Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2013. HC \$15.99.

World Rat Day is a book of poems that is all about the holidays that no one really recognizes or appreciates. These holidays include ones like Happy New Year for Cats Day, National Hippo Day, Firefly Day, Chocolate-Covered Anything Day, Limerick Day, and Frog Jumping Day. One of our favorite poems by Lewis was "Chocolate-Covered Ants," which celebrates Chocolate-Covered Anything Day. In this poem, J. Patrick Lewis describes how a person should eat a chocolate-covered ant. He recommends eating the jaw of the ant first, then the stomach, and then moving on to a leg. This poem really kept our attention.



Most students in Ms. Kessler's class enjoyed this book even if they did not particularly like poetry in general. All of the poems were really funny and had clever word play and rhyming. The book was interesting and put together sequentially by months of the year. Lewis's use of descriptive words such as *mandible* and *abdomen* made the book educational because it taught us new vocabulary. We liked how Lewis noted animal holidays, and we noticed that some of our birthdays fall on these little-known holidays. Although this is a children's poetry book, our entire class believes that some of the poems use occasional language that parents should be aware of, such as the poem "Jack A.," which is about a mule. Some holidays confused us as to why they even

exist, such as Yell "Fudge!" at the Cobras in North America Day. Overall, we enjoyed this book, and it gave us a lot of new information that we hadn't known before.

REVIEWED BY MS. KESSLER'S CLASS, GRADE 4

Markle, Sandra. ***The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs.***

Millbrook Press (Minneapolis, MN) 2011. HC \$29.27.



The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs by Sandra Markle is an okay book in my opinion even though I'm not a frog person. This book is about a disease that is killing Panamanian golden frogs. These frogs used to roam the forests everywhere in the 1990s. Nowadays, they're in danger of becoming extinct because of this disease. In 1996, when people discovered the frogs were disappearing, a biologist named Karen Lips went to Panama to figure out what was killing the frogs. In the end of the book, scientists discover what is killing the frogs.

This book was interesting but had a few disturbing pictures. There was one photo of a deceased frog with wasps swarming around it. It is a scientific mystery. It can be hard to believe it's nonfiction because it reminds me of a narrative in some ways. I rather enjoyed it.

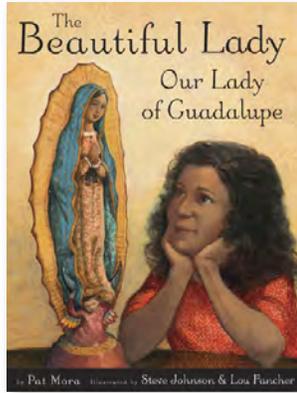
The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs is a perfect book for amphibian lovers. Find out the mystery of the golden frogs. What is it? How do scientists solve the mystery? I do hope you enjoy this nonfiction mystery book.

REVIEWED BY RIONA YU, GRADE 4

Mora, Pat. *The Beautiful Lady: Our Lady of Guadalupe*.

Random House (New York, NY) 2012. HC \$11.99.

The Beautiful Lady: Our Lady of Guadalupe is about two young girls listening to a story about Our Lady of Guadalupe told by their grandmother. The story the grandmother tells is about a poor man named Juan Diego who saw a beautiful lady on a hilltop. He tried to make the bishop believe that he saw the beautiful lady, but the bishop wanted a sign to show that the beautiful lady was real.



I really liked how the author explained the story in detail, like when the grandmother said, “That night, Juan Diego sat on his favorite rock and looked up at his favorite stars and at the silver moon.” Also, I liked how the illustrators made the image of the beautiful lady’s “cloak” and dress so elaborate.

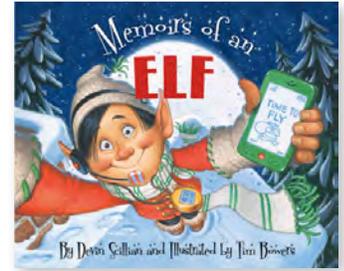
This book includes a couple of Spanish words because the grandmother is from Mexico. The grandmother uses them in the story. If I had to rate this book from one to ten I would choose eight. I liked the plot of the story and I think the illustrations were very detailed. If you are looking for a book for your three-year-old to read, I would not recommend buying the book for that purpose. I would buy it for *you* to read to your younger child.

REVIEWED BY ISABELLE F. LAPIERRE, GRADE 4

Scillian, Devin. Illus. by Tim Bowers.

***Memoirs of an Elf*.**

Sleeping Bear Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2014. HC \$16.99.



Memoirs of an Elf is about one of Santa’s elves named Spark, who is at the North Pole helping Santa get ready to deliver presents on Christmas Eve. At 9:45 p.m., the sleigh is loaded. Spark and the other elves, Nutshell and Bobbin, are all trying to keep Santa on track so the presents will be delivered on time. Santa thinks Spark is a bit of a worrier. At midnight, the team leaves on their twenty-four-hour journey. Along the way, Santa keeps getting caught up in distractions, and Spark continually tries to keep the big guy on time. When they return to the North Pole with a half hour to spare, they celebrate with hot cocoa and French toast. However, there is something still left in Santa’s bag! Will Spark be able to help Santa solve this problem as well?

When our class read this book, we all really enjoyed it. Isabella said she enjoys reading holiday books and especially ones that involve elves. Lizzy loves Christmas and thought the book was humorous. One of her favorite parts was when Santa got distracted by playing with the train set on one of his stops during his journey. Sophia added, “It was funny when Spark suggested to the readers that they should always leave ginger snaps for Santa because Santa always gives all the ginger snaps to his elves.” Bebe enjoyed it when Santa, Spark, the rest of the elves, and the reindeer had to dress up in disguise to hide their identities toward the end of the book. CC noted that she related to this contemporary version because students today are living in the age of technology. Spark takes an “elfie” of himself with his cell phone (in lieu of a “selfie”), and Annie recalled Santa using GPS to guide his travels around the world.

Because this is a picture book, it is geared toward younger children. However, just like other classic holiday picture books, *Memoirs of an Elf* can be enjoyed by readers of all ages. Bowers’s illustrations are colorful, and Scillian’s writing is trendy. We believe that you and yours will likely love this book.

REVIEWED BY MS. KESSLER’S CLASS, GRADE 4

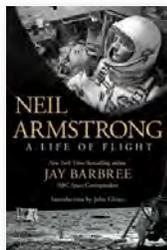
Book List

The following books were received at the Ohioana Library between August and October 2014. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

NONFICTION

Barbree, Jay. ***Neil Armstrong: A Life of Flight***. Thomas Dunne Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$27.99.

Barbree, the only reporter to cover all 166 U.S. astronaut flights, draws on five decades of friendship as well as interviews and NASA transcripts to tell Neil Armstrong's story from combat in the Korean War through his career at NASA and his walk on the moon.



Comisford, Sue. ***Ranger Creek Guest Ranch: Real Life, Real Faith***. Tate Publishing (Mustang, OK) 2014. PB \$13.99.

When Sue Comisford's son was diagnosed with cancer in the early 1990s, her family's priorities changed. After returning from a trip to an Arizona guest ranch sponsored by A Special Wish Foundation, the family began thinking about purchasing a guest ranch of their own. This book documents the history of the Ranger Creek Guest Ranch in Wyoming and the people that made it special.

DeAloia, Michael. ***Lost Grand Hotels of Cleveland***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

Between the 1880s and 1930s, Cleveland's hotels hosted U.S. presidents, business moguls, and Hollywood royalty. This

book provides a narrative and photographic history of seven of those grand hotels—only one of which survives today.

Dehan, Amy Miller. ***Cincinnati Silver: 1788-1940***. Cincinnati Art Museum & D Giles Limited (London, England) 2014. HC \$100.00.

The Cincinnati Art Museum holds more than 400 pieces of silver that were designed and created in the Queen City. This comprehensive and lavishly illustrated book documents the history of the silver trade in Cincinnati, from its birth just one year after the city's founding through the Arts and Crafts and Art Deco periods. More than 250 color plates, 200 hallmarks, numerous archival images, and thorough appendices make this a resource for silver enthusiasts, scholars, and admirers of the decorative arts alike.

Diemer, Tom, Lee Leonard, and Richard G. Zimmerman. ***James A. Rhodes: Ohio Colossus***. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. HC \$34.95.

This book, written by journalists who covered Rhodes's political career in overlapping terms, documents his upbringing in a single-parent home, his education (which did not include a college degree), his four terms as Ohio governor, and two decades as a political elder.

Drake, Simone C. ***Critical Appropriations: African American Women and the Construction of Transnational Identity***. Louisiana State Univ. Press (Baton Rouge, LA) 2014. HC \$35.00.

Drake, a professor at Ohio State University, argues against a

homogeneous view of black cultural studies. By examining the work of contemporary black female artists from Toni Morrison to Beyoncé, she shows how more fluid and transnational approaches to identity reflect African American women's concepts of family and community.

Foster, Emily. ***The Ohio State University District: A Neighborhood History***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

In this history of the neighborhoods surrounding one of the nation's largest universities, Foster documents a century of picnics, zoning wars, college culture, and neighborhood decay and rebirth.

Fox, Jon Hartley. ***King of the Queen City: The Story of King Records***. Univ. of Illinois Press (Urbana, IL) 2014. PB \$25.00.

This is the first comprehensive history of Cincinnati's King Records, an independent record label that released music by artists ranging from legendary banjo player Grandpa Jones to a young James Brown.

Giffels, David. ***The Hard Way on Purpose: Essays and Dispatches from the Rust Belt***. Scribner (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$15.00.

David Giffels was born in Akron in the 1960s, just as the golden age of midwestern industry was ending. This collection of essays describes coming of age in the Midwest as well as the people and culture that make the area unique.

Gurvis, Sandra. *Myths and Mysteries of Ohio: True Stories of the Unsolved and Unexplained*. Globe Pequot/Rowman & Littlefield (Guilford, CT) 2014. PB \$16.95. Gurvis investigates unsolved mysteries throughout the state, including the Cleveland torso murders, rumors of aliens at Wright-Patterson, and hauntings in locations ranging from Ohio University to The Golden Lamb in Lebanon.

Hagedorn, Ann. *The Invisible Soldiers: How America Outsourced Our Security*. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$28.00. Not too long ago, only mercenaries provided military services for hire. During the Iraq War, however, private security contractors eventually exceeded U.S. troops. Private contractors now not only assist the military, but guard embassies, provide police training, and perform intelligence analysis. In this book, former *Wall Street Journal* reporter Hagedorn examines the difficulties of monitoring these companies and the potential risks of U.S. dependence on their services.

Herbert, Jeffrey G. *Index of Death, Marriage, and Miscellaneous Notices Appearing in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette 1804-1857*. Ohio Genealogical Society, Hamilton County Chapter (Cincinnati, OH) 2014. PB \$39.00. This 500-page resource for historians and genealogists indexes death and marriage notices appearing in one Cincinnati newspaper during the early 1800s. Maiden names from death notices are also indexed; miscellaneous notices include information about debt, guardianship, land payments, divorce—and found horses.

Holliman, Jeannetta, ed. *Works in Process: Women Over 50, Reflecting*. Biblio Publishing (Columbus, OH) 2014. PB \$10.94. This anthology contains stories, poetry, and journal entries by fourteen Central Ohio women born between 1924 and 1955. The selections, along with a short biography of each contributor, paint a unique portrait of women and aging.

Huhn, Rick. *The Chalmers Race: Ty Cobb, Napoleon Lajoie, and the Controversial 1910 Batting Title That Became a National Obsession*. Univ. of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, NE) 2014. HC \$29.95. In 1910 auto manufacturer Hugh Chalmers offered a car to the baseball player with the highest batting average for the season. The contest between Detroit's Ty Cobb and Cleveland's Napoleon Lajoie came down to the last game of the season—and a decision that is still debated today.

Miklitsch, Robert, ed. *Kiss the Blood Off My Hands: On Classic Film Noir*. Univ. of Illinois Press (Champaign, IL) 2014. PB \$28.00. This collection of essays takes a new look at classic film noir by examining often-overlooked aspects of the genre, including female detectives, Disney noir, the impact of the producer, and the 1950s heist film.

Mizejewski, Linda. *Pretty/Funny: Women Comedians and Body Politics*. Univ. of Texas Press (Austin, TX) 2014. HC \$55.00. Women with good comic timing, from Katherine Hepburn to Phyllis Diller, have traditionally been described as either “pretty” or “funny.” In this book, Mizejewski focuses on six contemporary women writer-comedians who defied the “pretty

vs. funny” barrier and examines the social impact of their success.

Polley, Eva Louise. *African American Life in Franklin, Ohio*. Penmor Lithographers (Lewiston, ME) 2014. PB \$15.00. A combination of genealogy and local history, this book focuses on African American families living in Franklin, Ohio, from the 1860s to the present. Polley provides information about family histories, local businesses, and military service as well as numerous anecdotes and photographs depicting daily life.

Rall, Ted. *After We Kill You, We Will Welcome You Back as Honored Guests: Unembedded in Afghanistan*. Hill and Wang (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$26.00. In 2001, graphic journalist Ted Rall traveled through Afghanistan without embedding himself within a military unit. He returned nine years later, traveling with just a few colleagues and funded by Kickstarter rather than a news organization. This combination of travelogue, cartoons, and photographs paints a graphic picture of how the country has changed—and how it has stayed the same—after years of war.

Rice, Daniel L., and Gary Meszaros. *Native Fishes of Ohio*. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. PB \$24.95. With a combination of text and vivid color photographs, this book documents the history, behavior, and recent adaptations of more than 130 species of native Ohio fish.

Robinson, Debra. *The Dead Are Watching: Ghost Stories from a Reluctant Psychic*. Llewellyn (Woodbury, MN) 2014. PB \$15.99. Although Debra Robinson grew up

in a psychic but religious family, she didn't embrace her abilities until adulthood. In this book Robinson, now a professional psychic who works with paranormal investigation groups, recounts several of her most frightening supernatural experiences.

Rotuno-Johnson, Michelle. ***The Marion Popcorn Festival: A Fun-Filled History***. American Palate (Charlotte, NC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

In 1980, a group of Marion business owners met at a local restaurant to discuss ideas for bringing excitement to the community after a decade of job loss. Because the city was home to the world's largest popcorn exporter at the time, the Marion Popcorn Festival was born. Rotuno-Johnson documents the festival's growth from that first year to an annual event that attracts more than 200,000 people for a weekend of parades, pageants, concerts, sports, and—of course—popcorn.

Smith, Joanne Huist. ***The 13th Gift: A True Story of a Christmas Miracle***. Harmony Books (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$15.00.

As the holiday season approached, Joanne Huist Smith and her three children were still grieving the unexpected death of her husband. But thirteen days before Christmas, daily gifts began to arrive, signed "Your true friends." In this book Smith shares her family's experience with the healing power of kindness.



Venrick, William B., and Jean Steel Venrick. ***Echoes from the Hill: History of the Boys' Industrial School, Lancaster, Ohio 1856-1979***.

The Wordwright Press (Lancaster, OH) 2014. HC.

This volume uses photographs, articles, and narrative to document the history of the Boys' Industrial School in Lancaster from its founding until it closed in 1979.

Weber, Mark W., and Stephen H. Paschen. ***Side by Side: Alice and Staughton Lynd, the Ohio Years***. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2014. PB \$29.95.

Alice and Staughton Lynd have spent their lives championing social justice around the world. This book covers their years in Ohio—from advocating for Youngstown steel workers to prison inmates—and their practice of accompaniment, or living within the community in need. This book is not only the story of the Lynds, but also of grassroots activism.

Weibel, Betty. ***The Cleveland Grand Prix: An American Show Jumping First***. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

In addition to being home to the first airplane and the first all-professional baseball team, Ohio is also home to the first show jumping grand prix in the Western Hemisphere. In this book, Weibel traces the growth of horse sports in the Chagrin Valley and the birth of the Cleveland Grand Prix in 1965—the first North American event to rival European courses.

Zanon, Scott A. ***Landscaping with Trees in the Midwest: A Guide for Residential and Commercial Properties***. Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2014. PB \$26.95.

Author Zanon provides information



about 65 targeted tree species to help both landscape professionals and homeowners choose the right tree for the right location and conditions. More than 325 color photographs illustrate the appearance of each tree throughout the year.

FICTION

Davis, Ed. ***The Psalms of Israel Jones***. Vandalia Press (Morgantown, WV) 2014. PB \$16.99.

Aging rock star Israel Jones has begun to act unstable onstage, inciting his fans to violence. When Israel's son, Reverend Thomas Johnson, hears of the trouble, he joins the concert tour to see for himself. The journey gives him one last chance to reconnect with the father who abandoned him—and possibly with his wife, his congregation, and God as well.

Ervin II, Terry W. ***Soul Forge: A First Civilization's Legacy Novel***. Gryphonwood Press (Grayson, GA) 2014. PB \$12.99.

With her daughter inching toward death, Enchantress Thulease hires mercenary Flank Hawk to accompany her as she seeks the Soul Forge and a possible cure. Surviving the treacherous journey is doubly critical, for saving the young enchantress may be the only way to save the kingdom.

George, Elizabeth. ***The Edge of the Water***. Viking (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$18.99.

Becca King is secretly living on Whidbey Island, hiding from her criminal stepfather. As her life becomes intertwined with a mysterious seal and an even more mysterious girl, both long-buried secrets and Becca's own paranormal

powers are revealed. This follow-up to *The Edge of Nowhere* is the second book in Elizabeth George's Whidbey Island series.

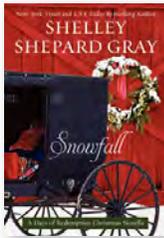
Gray, Shelley. ***Secrets of Sloane House: A Chicago World's Fair Mystery***. Zondervan (Grand Rapids, MI) 2014. PB \$15.99.

After Rosalind Perry's sister disappears while working as a live-in maid at Sloane House in 1893 Chicago, Rosalind gets a job there to uncover what happened. She finds that Sloane House and its residents hold dark secrets. Although the World's Fair has brought a new kind of crime to the streets of Chicago, Sloane House may be even more dangerous.



Gray, Shelley Shepard. ***Snowfall: A Days of Redemption Christmas Novella***. Avon Inspire (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$12.99.

After being laid off from her job at a nursing home, twenty-year-old Ruth Stutzman is happy to find work, even if it means caring for widower Martin Rhodes's six children until Christmas. As Ruth brings joy back into their lives, the children—and Martin—begin to care for her more and more. When Christmas draws near and Ruth is offered her old job back, she must make a choice that will affect them all.



Harper, Karen. ***Forbidden Ground: A Cold Creek Novel***. Harlequin Mira (Toronto, Canada) 2014. PB \$7.99. Anthropologist Kate Lockwood has returned to Cold Creek, Ohio, for

her sister's wedding. However, she has an ulterior motive for getting to know best man Grant Mason; she is hoping to excavate a prehistoric burial mound located on Mason land. After Grant refuses, one of his best friends is killed, and he and Kate join forces to help the police with the investigation. When Kate is also attacked, she must decide whether she can trust the man she has come to love.

Harper, Karen. ***Shattered Secrets: A Cold Creek Novel***. Harlequin Mira (Ontario, Canada) 2014. PB \$7.99. When Tess Lockwood inherits the family home and returns to Cold Creek, Ohio, she has no intention of awakening the suppressed memories of her childhood abduction. When another child goes missing, however, Tess is certain it's related to her return. Tess and Sheriff Gabe McCord will have to work together to unlock Tess's memories, save the missing child, and possibly unlock their hearts as well.

Hayes, Sherri. ***Crossing the Line***. The Writer's Coffee Shop (Waxahachie, TX) 2014. PB \$17.99. Detective Paul Daniels is a single dad struggling to raise his daughter, Chloe. When he suddenly finds himself without anyone to watch Chloe while he's at work, Megan Carson volunteers to be his live-in nanny. Although Megan has made some mistakes in the past, it doesn't take long for Chloe—and her father—to work their way into Megan's heart.

Hendrix, Grady. ***Horrorstör***. Quirk Books (Philadelphia, PA) 2014. PB \$14.95. Something strange is happening each night at the Orsk furniture store in Cleveland—merchandise is destroyed, but security cameras show

nothing. When three Orsk employees volunteer to work an overnight shift to catch the culprit, they encounter something worse than they could have imagined.

Ireland, Ryan. ***Beyond the Horizon***. Oneworld (London, UK) 2015. PB \$14.95.

In the American frontier, a man lives with a pregnant woman who is not his wife. When a stranger appears and advises the man to register the unborn child at a fabled military fort, the man sets out across the desert. After killing the woman, the stranger begins a hunt for the man with the goal of nothing less than rewriting the history of the American West.

Landefeld, Kurt. ***Jack's Memoirs: Off the Road***. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2014. PB \$19.95. In this fictional autobiography, Landefeld imagines what might have happened if Beat Generation author Jack Kerouac had lived instead of dying in 1969. Looking back on his life at age 80, Kerouac recalls a different kind of journey that still celebrates the richness of American culture.

Lincoln, Deborah. ***Agnes Canon's War: A Novel***. Blank Slate Press (St. Louis, MO) 2014. PB \$14.95. Agnes Canon dreamed of traveling west from her Pennsylvania home and finding true independence. Jabez Robinson had already traveled across the country, seeing both beauty and destruction. When the two meet in Missouri on the eve of the Civil War, they try to build a life together as the country crumbles around them.

Matthias, John. ***Different Kinds of Music: A Novel***. Shearsman Books (Bristol, UK) 2014. PB \$20.00. This novel focuses on six episodes in the life of archivist and thief Timothy

Westmont. Interchapters about music provide additional glimpses into Westmont's life. Like a collection of letters and photographs, the pieces combine to tell the story of a man and a life.

Pope, Paul, J.T. Petty, and David Rubin. ***The Rise of Aurora West: Battling Boy***. First Second (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$9.99.

Aurora West is not your average teenager. In addition to school and homework, she's also helping her hero father battle the monsters that plague Acropolis and trying to solve the mystery of her mother's murder more than a decade earlier. The answers may lie in her own childhood memories—if she can live long enough to piece them together.

Resnick, Mike. ***The Fortress in Orion: Dead Enders Book One***. Pyr Books (Amherst, NY) 2014. PB \$18.00.

Colonel Nathan Pretorius, a hero in the Democracy's war against the alien Traanskei Coalition, is about to get the riskiest mission of his life. The Democracy has managed to create the perfect spy by cloning the enemy's master strategist. Pretorius and his team must infiltrate enemy territory, replace the real strategist with a clone, and escape with their lives. Resnick returns to the "Birthright" universe with this first book in a series about Pretorius and his team, the Dead Enders.

Sanders, Yolonda Tonette. ***Day of Atonement: The Protective Detective Series***. Strebtor Books/Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$15.00.

Thirty years ago, eight-year-old Elana Campbell stormed out of her family's house and was never seen again. When detective Troy Evans

hears that his childhood friend's body has been found near a Texas highway, he returns home to Houston to help with the case. As he tries to establish a relationship with his estranged father, he begins to uncover secrets in Elana's family as well. When the killer is revealed, he wonders if some secrets should stay buried.

Scalzi, John. ***Lock In: A Novel of the Near Future***. Tom Doherty Associates (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$24.99.

In the near future, Haden's Syndrome has created the greatest medical crisis in history by leaving its victims "locked in"—fully aware, but unable to move. Although there is no cure for Haden's, new robotics technologies allow victims to work in the real world, and a special virtual reality environment allows them to interact with others, both locked in and not. Finally, a small percent of the population is discovered to be controllable, allowing the locked in to use their bodies. In this environment, FBI agents Chris Shane (a Haden's survivor) and Leslie Vann investigate a murder that turns out to be just the tip of a much larger crime.

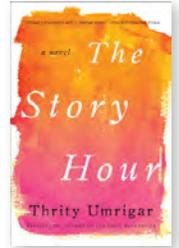
Thomson, Cindy. ***Annie's Stories: An Ellis Island Novel***. Tyndale House Publishers (Carol Stream, IL) 2014. PB \$14.99.

Annie Gallagher's father was a gifted traveling storyteller. After his death, Annie leaves Ireland and sets sail for America with her father's stories. She finds work and friendship at a boardinghouse in the heart of New York City. When a fellow boarder is accused of wrongdoing and the postman seems a little too interested

in her father's unpublished writings, Annie must decide who to trust as she struggles to make a home in her new country.

Umrigar, Thrity. ***The Story Hour: A Novel***. HarperCollins (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$25.99.

As a psychologist, Maggie maintains a professional distance from most of her patients. But when she agrees to treat a young Indian woman who tried to kill herself, she quickly realizes that what Lakshmi needs is a friend. As these two very different women grow close, secrets are revealed that test their friendship and explore the nature of forgiveness. (Cover image courtesy of HarperCollins Publishers.)



Valente, Anne. ***By Light We Knew Our Names: Stories***. Dzanc Books (Ann Arbor, MI) 2014. PB \$14.95.

This collection of thirteen stories explores boundaries between grief and joy, science and magic, and this world and the next.

POETRY

Brightman, Steve. ***In Brilliant Explosions Alone***. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$5.00.

Brightman's knowledge and love of baseball shines through in this collection of poems about the Cleveland Indians' 2008 season—a metaphor for dreams and unmet expectations.

Burroughs, John. ***The Eater of the Absurd***. Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2012. PB \$10.99.

As the title suggests, Burroughs uses a significant amount of word play as

he explores life's frustrations while still maintaining a sense of humor.

Burroughs, John, and Diane Borsenik, eds. ***Songs in the Key of Cleveland: An Anthology of the 2013 Best Cleveland Poem Competition.***

Crisis Chronicles Press (Cleveland, OH) 2014. PB \$10.00.

This collection features poems shared during the first annual Best Cleveland Poem day (May 5, 2013).

Demaree, Darren C. ***Temporary Champions.*** Main Street Rag (Charlotte, NC) 2014. PB \$14.00.

The seventy-two short poems in *Temporary Champions* explore the 1982 title match between Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini and Kim Duk-Koo that resulted in Kim's death.

Finley, Mike. ***For the Young Poets of Cleveland.*** Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$5.00.

This collection by Pushcart Prize-winner Finley contains eleven poems on topics including the nature of poetry and the nature of society.

Franke, Christopher. ***As the Caffeine Kicks In.*** Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$8.00.

Cleveland poet Franke uses unconventional typography as well as language to express his thoughts on everything from religion and politics to aging and love.

Gildzen, Alex. ***Blossoms: a collection of poems (1955 to 2013) in celebration of the poet's 70th birthday.*** Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB.

Poet Gildzen explores nature and loss in this collection of poems written from 1955 (his earliest surviving poem) to the present.

Greenway, William. ***The Accidental Garden.*** Word Poetry (Cincinnati, OH) 2014. PB \$18.00.

Greenway's poems look back on sixty years of life, finding joy and sorrow in memories of family, home, and love.

McGuane, Jack. ***Unfinished.*** Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$8.00.

The poems in this collection by octogenarian McGuane explore topics ranging from the nature of life to the smell of an elephant.

Provost, Terry. ***An Uncountable Infinity Of Orgasms.*** Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2011. PB \$5.00.

The thirteen poems in this collection are often biting as Provost searches for answers to life's big questions.

Roberts, Andy. ***The Green World.*** Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2014. PB \$8.00.

In his fourth chapbook, Roberts explores the natural world around us and turns small moments into cause for celebration.

Rosser, J. Allyn. ***Mimi's Trapeze.*** Univ. of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2014. PB \$15.95.

This collection tackles a wide range of subjects from shopping malls to the end of the world. Rosser's poems vary in length and format, but are united by insight and a sense of humor.

Seidl, Laraine. ***Stitched Together.*** Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$5.00.

The fifteen poems in Seidl's collection detail both explosive and peaceful moments of a relationship.

Smith, Dan. ***The Liquid of Her Skin, the Suns of Her Eyes.*** Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$8.00.

Cleveland Dan Smith departs from his usual beat poetry with this collection of fifty-three short speculative (science fiction/horror) poems, ranging from an encounter with an alien barfly to a haiku trip on a sentient spacecraft.

Stanley, J.E. ***Selected Regions of the Moon.*** Nightballet Press (Elyria, OH) 2013. PB \$8.00.

This collection of speculative poetry explores the universe as it is and also as it might be, including (in the titular poem) a moon that is no longer our own.

Veverka, Marian J. ***The Overgrown Garden.*** Finishing Line Press (Georgetown, KY) 2014. PB \$12.00. Veverka's love of nature is clear in these poems of people and places, all tied together by the natural world.

YOUNG ADULT

Chima, Cinda Williams. ***The Sorcerer Heir: An Heir Chronicles Novel.*** Hyperion (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$18.99.

In this finale to Chima's *Heir Chronicles*, the peace between the Wizards and the other guilds is threatened by forces inside and out. As Emma and Jonah try to rebuild their trust in each other, they must also try to prove their innocence in a string of murders and uncover a long-buried secret that may hold the key to everything.



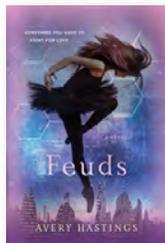
Gebhart, Ryan. ***There Will Be Bears.*** Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2014. HC \$16.99.

Thirteen-year-old Tyson loves spending time with his grandfather Gene. When Gene moves into a care

facility to help control his kidney disease, Tyson sneaks off with Gene to go on his first elk hunt, where there will be bears...

Hastings, Avery. **Feuds**. St. Martin's Griffin (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$18.99.

Davis Morrow is a Prior—genetically engineered to be smarter and stronger than the Imperfects. However, when Davis meets Cole, an Imperfect, she is as



drawn to him as he is to her. When a deadly epidemic starts ravaging the Prior population, Cole may be the only one she can turn to for help.

Leigh, Vicki. **Catch Me When I Fall: Dreamcatcher Book 1**. Curiosity Quills (Reston, VA) 2014. PB \$14.99.

Since his death 200 years ago, Daniel has guarded humans from nightmares and other creatures that feed on fear. When he's assigned to protect Kayla, a sixteen-year-old psychiatric patient, he notices the nightmares have taken an unusual interest in her. When Kayla is attacked, Daniel discovers what makes her so special and vows to protect her at any cost—even if it means giving up his immortality.

Maxwell, Lisa. **Sweet Unrest**. Flux (Woodbury, MN) 2014. PB \$9.99. When Lucy Aimes's family moves to New Orleans, she begins having intense dreams of the city's past that are filled with people she somehow knows. The dreams also include Alex, a boy she just met but who seems to know her. As Lucy searches for answers, a century-old vendetta reignites, a killer strikes, and Lucy must solve the puzzle to save those she loves.

McCahan, Erin. **Love and Other Foreign Words**. Dial Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

Josie speaks several languages fluently, including High School, Boyfriends, and Break-Ups. In the face of impending disaster, she must examine her feelings for her best friend, her sister, and a special boy, and learn the language of True Love.

Pattou, Edith. **Ghosting**. Skyscape (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

One summer night, a teenage dare involving alcohol and guns goes tragically wrong. The event and its aftermath are described in free verse from the viewpoint of each of the teens involved, creating a haunting story of guilt and survival.



Raasch, Sara. **Snow Like Ashes**. Balzer + Bray (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

As an infant, Meira was one of only eight people who escaped when the Kingdom of Winter was conquered. She has spent the past sixteen years in exile, training to be a warrior. When scouts discover the location of a locket that can restore Winter's magic, Meira goes after it herself, and finds a world and a destiny very different from what she expected.



Stine, R. L. **Party Games: A Fear Street Novel**. Thomas Dunne Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

Stine returns to Fear Street for the first time in almost twenty years with the story of Rachel Martin, who jumps at the chance to attend Brendan Fear's exclusive birthday party despite his family's gruesome

history. When the guests start dying one by one, Rachel doesn't know who to trust as she struggles to survive the most dangerous party game of all—murder.

MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S

Anderson, Tanya. **Tillie Pierce: Teen Eyewitness to the Battle of Gettysburg**. Twenty-First Century Books (Minneapolis, MN) 2013. HC \$34.60.

In 1863, fifteen-year-old Tillie Pierce lived in the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This book does not focus on the story of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, but instead shares Tillie's experiences in her own words as she and other townspeople tend to the wounded and deal with the battle and its aftermath.

Brenning, Juli. **Maggi & Milo**. Dial Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

When Maggi and her best friend Milo (a border collie) go on a frog hunt, it looks like a lost cause until Milo saves the day.

Burke, Zoe. **Charley Harper's What's in the Coral Reef? A Nature Discovery Book**. Pomegranate (Portland, OR) 2014. HC \$14.95.

Fifty different reef dwellers from Charley Harper's painting *The Coral Reef* are paired with rhyming text that introduces children to each creature. The complete artwork is shown in a fold-out page at the end of the book, allowing readers to locate their favorite creatures.



de Seve, Randall. Illus. by Loren Long. ***Toy Boat***. Penguin Young Readers (New York, NY) 2014. BB \$7.99. Illustrated by Ohioan Loren Long, this board book edition of the 2007 original describes the adventures of a little boat on a big lake and celebrates the power of friendship.

Gerber, Carole. Illus. by Jeffrey Ebbeler. ***The Twelve Days of Christmas in Ohio***. Sterling Children's Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$12.95.

When Matt's cousin Megan comes for a holiday visit, he gives her a twelve-day tour of Ohio from Cincinnati to Lake Erie and all points in between. Readers can learn about famous Ohio people and places, presented in the format of the familiar Christmas carol.



Harper, Charley. ***Charley Harper's A Partridge in a Pear Tree***. Pomegranate (Portland, OR) 2014. HC \$9.95.

Charley Harper originally created this never-before-published story for his family as a hand-sewn booklet on construction paper. In it, pastel sketches illustrate the familiar Christmas carol, while Harper's annotations ("What in the world will I do with three French hens?") create additional whimsy for adults and children alike.



Houts, Michelle. ***Winterfrost***. Candlewick Press (Somerville, MA) 2014. HC \$16.99.



In Denmark, it is a tradition to leave a bowl of rice pudding for the nisse, a tiny creature who watches over families and their livestock. However, when unexpected events cause twelve-year-old Bettina to be left alone with her baby sister Pia, the rice pudding is forgotten. When Pia disappears, Bettina must enter the magical world of the nisse to make her apologies and retrieve Pia before her parents return.

Kennedy, Marlane. ***Disaster Strikes: Volcano Blast***. Scholastic (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$4.99.

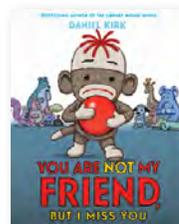
Noah and Emma Burton's father has just moved the family to Alaska for a year to study volcanoes. Although Noah expects it to be the most boring year of his life, he is proven wrong when a dormant volcano on a remote island suddenly erupts. Now Noah, Emma, and their new friend Alex must fight through ash and lava to make it off the island alive.

Kirk, Daniel. ***Ten Thank-You Letters***. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

Pig is writing a thank-you note to his grandmother when his best friend Rabbit stops by. Rabbit is inspired to write nine thank-you letters of his own, but his interruptions try Pig's patience. Happily, the tenth thank-you letter reminds Pig what friendship is all about.

Kirk, Daniel. ***You Are Not My Friend, But I Miss You***. Abrams Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.95.

Monkey and Dog are best friends until Dog grabs Monkey's ball and runs away. After some unsuccessful attempts to befriend a rock and a worm, Monkey



decides to be his own best friend—and comes to realize that sharing is a two-way street.

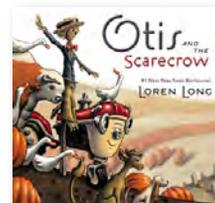
Lewis, J. Patrick. ***M Is for Monster: A Fantastic Creatures Alphabet***. Sleeping Bear Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2014. HC \$16.99.

This book by former Children's Poet Laureate Lewis includes an alphabetical list of monsters from many cultures. Each creature is described with a short verse as well as a few paragraphs about its origin and history. Gerald Kelley's illustrations range from humorous to truly creepy.

Lewis, J. Patrick. ***Voices from the March on Washington***. Wordsong (Honesdale, PA) 2014. HC \$15.95. The 1963 March on Washington is described in verse through the eyes of six fictional characters, each with his or her own reason for attending.

Long, Loren. ***Otis and the Scarecrow***. Philomel (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

When a scarecrow appears on the farm, Otis the tractor and the farm animals think they have a new friend. When the scarecrow doesn't respond to them, however, they turn away. One rainy fall day, Otis shows the large impact of a tiny step toward friendship.

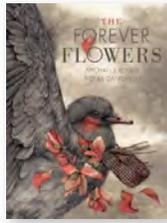


Mosham, Lisa. ***Around the Sun We Go***. Learning Moon Books (Stow, OH) 2014. PB \$10.00.

Simple text and colorful photographs describe the sun's daily journey across the sky.

Rosen, Michael J. ***The Forever Flowers***. Creative Editions (Mankato, MN) 2014. HC \$18.99.

Reluctant to let her favorite Forever Flowers go, a young grouse carries them along on her fall migration. When their extra weight causes her to plunge into a cold river, she is rescued by a spaniel and his human companion and becomes part of their home. With the arrival of spring, the grouse must once again make a choice between holding on and letting go.



Salamon, Julie. ***Cat in the City***. Dial Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

Independence can be lonely, so when a disheveled white cat meets a pack of dogs in New York City's Washington Square Park, he follows them home. The cat is renamed Pretty Boy, and as his circle of friends expands, his tale becomes the story of an entire neighborhood.

Scillian, Devin. Illus. by Tim Bowers. ***Memoirs of an Elf***. Sleeping Bear Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2014. HC \$16.99.

Spark the Elf keeps Santa on schedule during his Christmas Eve deliveries, until they discover that a family dog has stowed away on the sleigh. Can Spark and Santa get him home by Christmas morning?



Stine, Megan. ***Who Was Marie Curie?*** Grosset & Dunlap (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$4.99.

Part of the *Who Was...?* series, this book documents the life of scientist Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

Stine, Megan. ***Who Was Ulysses S. Grant?*** Grosset & Dunlap (New York, NY) 2014. PB \$4.99.

Part of the *Who Was...?* series, this book describes the life and career of Ulysses S. Grant, the commander of Union forces during the Civil War who later became president of the United States.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Brown Girl Dreaming***. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$16.99.

In this collection of free-verse poems, Ohio native Woodson describes what it was like growing up alternately in South Carolina and New York during the 1960s and 1970s. The poems not only describe her feelings of being only "halfway home" in each place, but also share her joy as she discovers writing.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration***. Nancy Paulsen Books (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$16.99.

This fictional story follows one family that was part of the Great Migration, when more than six million African Americans moved north in search of a better life between the early 1900s and 1970. The titular rope, initially found under a tree in South Carolina, becomes an integral part of the family's story as it secures their belongings during the move to New York City, initiates a game of jump rope in a new neighborhood, holds up a family reunion sign, and eventually makes its way back to the little girl who found it, now a grandmother.



Ohioana Book Festival

April 25, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sheraton Columbus Hotel at
Capitol Square, Columbus, Ohio

Celebrate Ohio literature and meet your favorite Ohio authors at the ninth annual Ohioana Book Festival! Each year the festival hosts approximately 100 authors who participate in book signings, panel discussions, and author roundtables. The festival also features children's activities, children's book characters, food, and more. 2015 marks our first year at our new location across from the Ohio Statehouse and adjacent to Columbus Commons; save the date and come celebrate with us!

Complete details will be available in the April issue of the *Quarterly*, but you can get a sneak peek at this year's featured authors on page 11.

Brews + Prose

First Tuesday of every month
Market Garden Brewery, Cleveland,
Ohio

Founded in 2012, this monthly series of literary readings strives to make literature and authors more accessible and engaging. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/MarketGardenBreweryReadingSeries.

Evenings with Authors

Sponsored by Thurber House,
Columbus, Ohio

Tickets for the 2015 Winter/Spring Evenings with Authors series are now on sale. All events are held at the Columbus Museum of Art. For schedule and ticket information, visit www.thurberhouse.org/2015-winterspring-season.html.

Westerville Symphony Orchestra Tunes & Tales

January 31, 2015

9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. (3 sessions)

Westerville Public Library,
Westerville, Ohio

This integration of music and storytelling features *The Story of Ferdinand*. For children age 4-8 and their families; children will be able to interact with the musicians and their instruments. For more information and to register (required), visit www.westervillelibrary.org/events.

Ohioana Library Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant

Application deadline is January 31,
2015

The annual Marvin Grant awards \$1,000 to an Ohio author, age 30 or younger, who has not yet published a book. For more information and an application form, visit www.ohioana.org/awards/marvin.asp.

Ohioana Book Club

February 11, 2015

10 a.m. – noon

Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio

The book for February is *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng, named Amazon's Best Book of 2014. The club meets in the Ohioana reading room from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

Do you have a literary event you'd like to list in the next edition of the *Ohioana Quarterly*? Contact the Ohioana Library at ohioana@ohioana.org.

www.ohioana.org

Test your Ohio movie IQ!

Books and screenplays by Ohio writers have appeared on film since motion pictures were first introduced. Test your "Ohio movie IQ" with the questions below!

1. Which influential nineteenth-century novel inspired at least nine films during the silent era?
2. Which 1959 tearjerker, based on a book by Fannie Hurst, starred Lana Turner?
3. Which Antioch College graduate wrote the screenplay for 1968's *Planet of the Apes*?
4. Which award-winning actress played author Susan Orlean in the adaptation of *The Orchid Thief*?

See the article on page 4 for answers!