

Book Stories



BROWN BOOKSTORE

The Brown Bookstore Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 7

Fall 2009

Welcome Students and Faculty

The Brown Bookstore extends a warm welcome to all new and returning students, as well as to faculty, staff, friends and neighbors. An anchor on the ever-evolving Thayer Street, the Brown Bookstore has recently undergone a complete renovation. Textbooks are now on the lower level, while the Technology Center is located on the mezzanine with school and office supplies. General books occupy two floors on the south side of the store where the College Hill Cafe can also be found. Clothing and gifts are located on the main floor.

We have also extended our hours for your shopping and dining pleasure.

General Books & Café:
Monday–Friday 7–10
Saturday 10–10
Sunday 10–6

Main Store (including
Technology Center &
Campus Shop):
Monday–Friday 9–6
Saturday and Sunday 10–6

Our staff has composed a

list of recent releases we love. Feel free to seek us out for clarification or additional recommendations!

Tova recommends:

Baking Cakes in Kigali by Gaile Parkin, the popular *This Is Where I Leave You* by Jonathan Tropper, *That Old Cape Magic* by Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Russo, and *Going Away Shoes* by Jill McCorkle. She's also looking forward to reading *The Year of the Flood*, Margaret Atwood's long awaited novel due in late September, as well as *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver, and *The Lost Symbol* by the bestselling Dan Brown.

Julie suggests:

A Disobedient Girl by Ru Freeman, as well as *The Marriage Bureau For Rich People* by Farahad Zama. She's also a big fan of *Baking Cakes in Kigali*, and highly recommends *The Thing Around Your Neck* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and *Between the Assassinations* by Aravind Adiga.

Bob advises reading:

The rousing historical novel The Collector of Worlds written by Iliya Troyanov, and for non-fiction, *Ark of the Liberties* by John Carter Brown Library Director Ted Widmer, as well as *American Heroes* by historian Edmund S. Morgan. Bob is also looking forward to reading *True Compass*, the much awaited autobiography of the late Senator Edward Kennedy.

Susan suggests:

Stitches, the graphic novel that's making waves by David Small, as well as *Beat the Reaper*, the comic debut novel now in paperback by Brown alumnus Josh Bazell. She also is a fan of the trials, tribulations, and drunken revelries served up in *American on Purpose* by hilarious late night talk show host Craig Ferguson.



Special points of interest:

- E. L. DOCTOROW'S NEW TALE
- JUSTICE FOR ALL
- FINDING SUSIE
- IN THE BOOKSTORE
- CUB EXPLORERS

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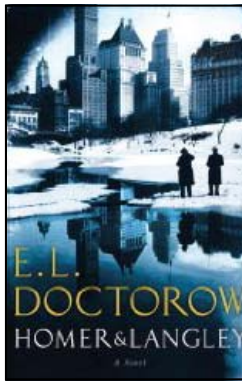
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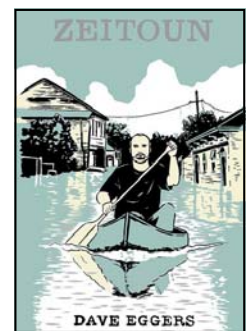


Homer & Langley by E.L. Doctorow

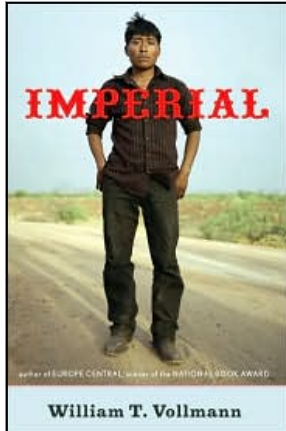
The America E. L. Doctorow portrays is mythic in scope and vision. In this tale, set in the period just before WWI and extending far into the century, he portrays the fabled and flawed Collyer brothers, through the blind Homer’s narrative. The novel is filled with the sounds and smells of the city, of day to day living, and of the brothers’ once regal household now moldering around them, as it fills with the detritus of their life. With *Homer and Langley*, Doctorow illuminates a tale of both loss and excess, and ultimately of bittersweet loneliness. (Random House). Reviewed by Bob Geake.

Zeitoun by Dave Eggers

From the acclaimed author of semi-biographical novel *What Is the What*, comes this pivotal story of New Orleans in the ugly wake of Katrina. Eggers tells the story of Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a Syrian-American who chose to stay through the storm, and then abruptly vanished. Eggers skillfully exposes the incompetence and self serving politics that led to the tragedy; and the racism and bigotry exposed in the aftermath of the storm. An example of journalism at its finest. (McSweeney’s).



Imperial by William Vollman



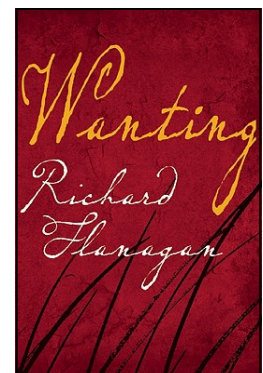
I’m taking the *Economists* advice about this hefty new tome from the hyper-prolific Vollman:

“Simply open the book at random and read. Be prepared to be astonished, angered, enlightened and repulsed all in one sitting. By no means attempt to read the book as a narrative whole. You will only be confused, disheartened, and frustrated within the first few hundred pages.”

Vollman proves to be a tireless, if not disjointed reporter. *Imperial*, was tellingly eight years in the making; but worth the ride for the reader willing to take the journey.

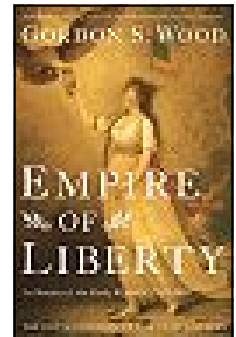
Wanting by Richard Flanagan

This latest novel from Richard Flanagan (author of the intriguing *Gould’s Book of Fish* and *The Unknown Terrorist*) solidifies his reputation as one of the best novelists writing today. *Wanting* weaves several stories into one. The sad history of an aborigine girl adopted by the misguided wife of retired explorer, Sir John Franklin is examined, and a compelling side of Charles Dickens is revealed. A masterfully crafted work by one of our most innovative writers. (Atlantic Monthly Press). Reviewed by Bob Geake.

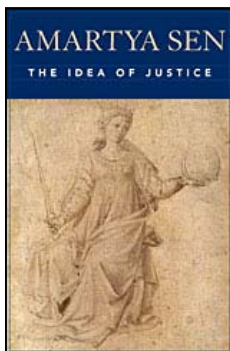


Empire of Liberty by Gordon Wood

One of America's most esteemed historians, Brown Professor Gordon S. Wood, offers a brilliant account of the early American Republic, ranging from 1789 and the beginning of the national government to the end of the War of 1812. As Wood reveals, the period was marked by tumultuous change in all aspects of American life--in politics, society, economy, and culture. The men who founded the new government had high hopes for the future, but few of their hopes and dreams worked out quite as they expected. Integrating all aspects of life, from politics and law to the economy and culture, *Empire of Liberty* offers a marvelous account of this pivotal era when America took its first unsteady steps as a new and rapidly expanding nation. (Due early Oct. from Oxford University Press).



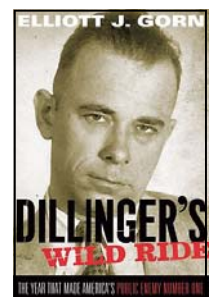
The Idea of Justice by Amartya Sen



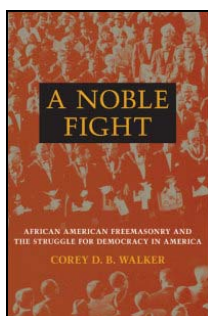
In this thoughtful and thought-provoking book, the economist Amartya Sen takes a long look at the theory of Social Justice-- long dominated by John Rawls extensive work on the subject. While respecting Rawls assessment of *Justice as Fairness*, Sen takes a long and critical look at components of Rawls theory. Sen argues forcibly, that leaders like Ghandi identified manifest injustices that could be overcome without “*trying to achieve a perfectly just world*”. This, as Sen says, is “*comparative justice*”- identifying specific social injustices that can be removed. As always, Sen has provided a provocative work that will inspire and contribute to the debate. (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press). Reviewed by Bob Geake .

Dillinger's Wild Ride by Elliott J. Gorn

The American public's fascination with the persona of John Dillinger began during his days of robbing banks and eluding capture by the FBI in the throes of the great depression. Dillinger, a bank robber and murderer became an anti-hero, a legend to those who fancied him a Robin Hood of modern times. Brown professor Elliott J. Gorn, renders an accurate and compelling narrative in the year of the “Hoosier Outlaw's” wild ride to his death, and speculates that Dillinger still channels “Americans longings for the outlaw free skies, for a wild ride on the open road.” (Oxford University Press). Reviewed by Bob Geake.



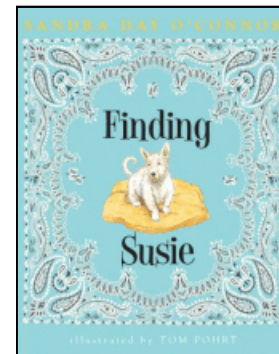
A Noble Fight by Corey D. B. Walker



A Noble Fight examines the metaphors and meanings behind the African American appropriation of the culture, ritual, and institution of freemasonry in navigating the contested domain of American democracy. Combining cultural and political theory with extensive archival research--including the discovery of a rare collection of nineteenth-century records of an African American Freemason Lodge--Corey D. B. Walker provides an innovative perspective on American politics and society during the long transition from slavery to freedom. (University of Illinois Press).

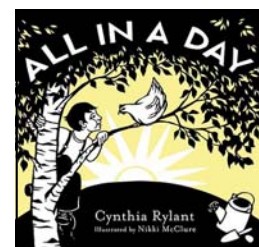
***Finding Susie* by Sandra Day O’Conner**

Former Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O’Conner has used her recent spare time to author a charming children’s tale, based on her own childhood. Sandra lives on a ranch and yearns for a pet to keep her company. Her understanding parents allow her to care for various wild creatures of the desert that need her help. As she feeds and cares for each one, Sandra slowly realizes that it will be happier in its natural habitat and reluctantly releases it into the wild. Then the town grocer comes up with a good solution—a small, white, stray dog with a curly tail that needs a home. This thoughtful story will be a favorite of both young readers and their parents. (Knopf Books for Young Readers).



***All In A Day* by Cynthia Rylant**

This lovely book illuminates all the possibilities a day offers—the opportunities and chances that won’t ever come again—and also delivers a gentle message of good stewardship of our planet. The story is written by Newbury Award winner Rylant, and also features the bright, visually stunning cut paper artwork of Nikki McClure. This book would be especially welcome for younger readers. (Abrams Books for Young Readers).



***Only A Witch Can Fly* by Alison McGhee**

This enchanting tale about a young girl’s wish to fly and her moonlit efforts is filled with poetic language: *The dark night around you fills with Fly, fly / and bright yellow moon shines down. / Cat by your side purrs a gentle Bye, bye / and Owl stares up at a star, so far.* It is also filled with the wonderful linoleum block prints by the young Korean artist Taeun Yoo. (Feiwel & Friends).

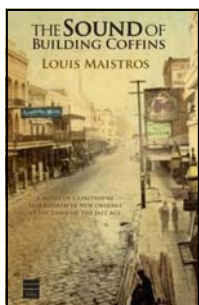


***Sunday Chutney* by Aaron Blabey**

This thoroughly charming book about an independent minded little girl is a real treat for like-minded youngsters. Sunday Chutney seems to have a life many would envy. She travels around the world, making new friends at each new school. But even the most independent minded of us want some creature comforts, like breakfast in bed, in a home that’s always the same...or maybe a monster truck. (Front Street).



A Remembrance of Katrina



In September Brown University is hosting several events to commemorate the response from Brown students and the bond formed with Dillard University in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

On **Thursday, September 24th**, in the bookstore, New Orleans author **Louis Maistros** will read from his new novel *The Sound of Building Coffins*.

Set in the Big Easy around the turn of the last century, the story entwines voodoo, jazz, the life of the poor, and the life-giving bayou.

Mr. Maistros will also be a guest of the songwriting class in the Music department on **Friday September 25th** where he will discuss the songs he has written related to Katrina, as well as the impact that the storm has had on the city's musical life. The class will be followed by a talk by Mr. Maistros at **4:00 p.m.** which will be **open to the public**.

A musical tribute to New Orleans will be held on **Friday night at 8:00 p.m.** to benefit **Habitat for Humanity** followed by a reception in the Faculty Club.

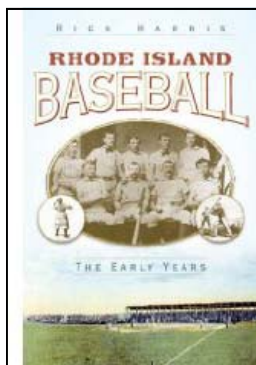
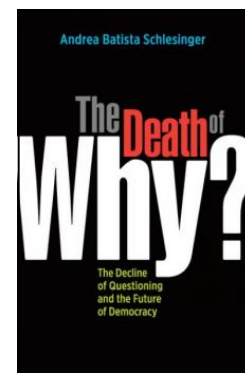
For more info, visit <http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Music/katrina.html>

Too Many Answers?

We all want answers, but have we forgotten to ask the right questions? **Andrea Batista Schlesinger** ponders whether we have lost sight of the power of questioning in her latest book *The Death of Why?*

Schlesinger argues that we're besieged by cultural forces that urge us to avoid critical thinking and independent analysis. The media and even the Internet promotes habits that discourage looking deeper.

Join us in the bookstore on **September 30th at 6:00 p.m.** as we discuss this pertinent and topical issue facing America today.



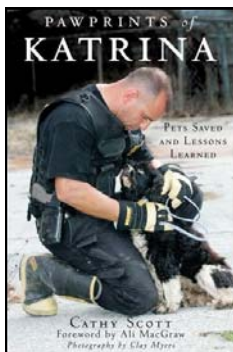
RI Baseball

The playoffs and World Series are fast coming upon us, and what better way to reminisce about the great American pastime than a talk by **Rick Harris** on local baseball lore.

Rhode Island Baseball: The Early Years brings to life the colorful characters, both men and women who pioneered the game in the Ocean State.

Join us on Saturday October 3rd at 3:00 p.m. for this entertaining discussion.

See the Brown Bookstore events page for more details about these events.



The **Brown Bookstore** is presenting **Pets of Katrina**, on **Saturday September 12th at 2:00 p.m.** This event will feature a slide show and focus on the effect of the storm on pets and the dramatic rescues that took place to save them.

The talk will center on the book *Pawprints of Katrina* by Cathy Scott which will be available for purchase.

Join Cub Explorers on **Saturday, September 26th at 2:00 p.m.** for an excursion to the **Urban Environmental Lab** and find out what's been growing this summer.

The Community Gardens are bursting with vegetables to harvest, and the kitchen is busy canning and preserving for fall and winter.

See what's going on, and join in a special "hands-on" project.



On **October 3rd at 2:00 p.m.** The **Cub Explorers** program will hold a special craft project entitled "My Home". We will make cards depicting the homes we have or would like to have. We will be joined by a guest from **Habitat For Humanity** who will talk about the efforts the organization has made to rebuild neighborhoods in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

We're looking forward to **October 10th at 2:00 p.m.** when the guys from **Rescue Ink** bike in and let us know about all the good work they do to prevent the abuse and mistreatment of animals. This group of bikers from the Big Apple began the organization nearly ten years ago.

Leader John Panz survived a multiple shooting to turn his life around and work to save the animals he loved. In just the past year, the group has received recognition for their work in *The New York Times* and in a National Geographic special to air September 25th.

Be sure to join us at the Brown Bookstore for this very special event.

