SENSE OF PLACE

Doiron, Paul. *The Bone Orchard*. Minotaur, 2015. $26. 978-1250034885. Maine game warden takes his licks looking into a local shooting. Series with strong physicality, and observations of honest wildlife and sorry human beings. Maine’s reply to Archer Mayer? AH

Koryta, Michael. *Those Who Wish Me Dead*. Little Brown, 2014. $26. 978-0316122559. Exciting page-turner set in the Montana woods with troubled teens and an ex-Air Force instructor. Wildfire, creepy killers, and survival skills. ED

Makkai, Rebecca. *The Hundred Year House*. Viking, 2014, $26.95. 978-0525426684. A retrograde portrayal of the house that served as the Laurelfield Arts Colony and its many inhabitants over time, with mysteries solved and secrets preserved. SC

VanderMeer, Jeff. *Annihilation.* (Southern Reach Trilogy, Book 1) Farrar Straus Giroux Originals, 2014 (paper), $13.00. 978-0374104092. An expedition to the mysterious and futuristic Area X unfolds with twists that have been compared to the TV series *Lost*. Beautiful nature writing. SC

Zink, Nell. *The Wallcreeper*, Dorothy, 2014, $16. 978-0989760713. Zink’s astonishingly original writing is at the core of this breakout work from a small independent publishing project, which chronicles a young couple’s marriage, travels and dissolutions. SC

JUST FOR FUN

Deresiewicz, William. *Excellent Sheep: the miseducation of the American elite and the way to a meaningful life*. Free Press, 2014. $26. 978-147602711. Acerbic, pointed examination of what schooling should do. ED\*\*\*

Flanders, Judith. *A Murder of Magpies*. St Martins, 2015. $25. 978-1250056450. Snarky book editor Sam has criminal activity to investigate and a book & author to edit in this debut mystery. Insider humor for the bookish. Excellent minor characters underscore the merriment. AH

Schumacher, Julie. *Dear Committee Members*. Doubleday, 2014. $22.95. 978-0385538138. An epistolary send up of academia and the literary world, told entirely through letters of recommendation, with unexpected heart. SC

Straub, Emma. *The Vacationers*. Riverhead, 2014. $27. 978-1594631573. Divinely dysfunctional family on vacation in Mallorca, with challenging agendas. Split-ups, deflowering, distracting truths? Oh, yes! Perfect summer reading. Exhibit with hopeless travel/vacation sagas? AH

Truss, Lynne. *Cat out of Hell*. Melville House, 2015. $24,95 978-1-61219-442-4. Richly layered, tricky novel about an eternal demon cat named The Captain. ED

STRONG CHARACTERS

Alexander, Elizabeth. *The Light of the World: a memoir.* Grand Central, 2015. $26. 978-1455599875. When poet Alexander met Ficre Ghebreyesus, she felt her insides change. An incandescent love story, with food, Eritrean magic, and pain at his early death. AH \*\*\*

Baime, A. J. *The Arsenal of Democracy: FDR, Detroit and an epic quest to arm an America at war*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. $27. 978-0-547-71928-3. $27.00. For history buffs, how Ford Motors constructed the Willow Run bomb factory. Character-driven storytelling. ED

Chast, Roz. *Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant?* Only child Chast sees her parents drift into age—first her beloved dad, then her difficult mother. Dismay, regret, and love—nothing plastic or trite. Graphic finalist, 2014 National Book Award. AH\*\*\*

Gay, Roxanne. *An Untamed State*. Grove Press, Black Cat, 2014 (paperback), $16., 978-0802122513. Mirielle is kidnapped for ransom while visiting family in Haiti; in the aftermath she fights for her life and family long after she is released. SC\*\*\*

Gordon, Kim. *Girl in a Band*. Dey Street Books, 2015, $27.99. 978-0062295897 Feminist icon and rock powerhouse Kim Gordon opens up about her life and work, from founding Sonic Youth to the end of her marriage with bandmate Thurston Moore. SC

Moran, Caitlin. *How to Build a Girl*. Harper, 2014, $26.99. 978-0062335975. Hilarious and poignant fiction debut follows adolescent Johanna’s self-invention as music critic and misanthrope in the face of poverty, family and rock-and-roll. SC

CURRENT EVENTS

Harris, Michael. *The End of Absence: reclaiming what we’ve lost in a world of constant connection.*  Current, 2014. $26.95. 978-1-59184-693-2. We are the last generation that can remember life before the Internet; was there something there? ED\*\*\*

Jauhar, Sandeep. *Doctored: the disillusionment of an American physician*. FSG, 2014. 978-0-374-14139-4. $26.00. Interesting look from the inside at what’s wrong with American medicine. Cardiologist looks at low morale, cronyism, corporate influence, the need for reform. ED

Klein, Naomi. *This Changes Everything: capitalism vs. the climate*. Simon & Schuster, 2014. $30. 978-4516-9738-4. Superb exposition of the whole global warming problem. What is the impact of the economic market on global warming? ED

Ng, Celeste. *Everything I Never Told You*. Penguin, 2014. $27. 978-1594205712. Paper, $16. 978-0143127550. In the 1970’s a missing teen, drowned, unfolds the family story of an ambitious Virginia woman married to a Chinese American professor. Debut novel. AH

Rankine, Claudia. *Citizen: an American lyric*. Graywolf Press, 2014. $20. Paper. 978-1555976903. National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry in America; essays, images and poetry on the effects of racism in the 21st century. SC

Risen, James. *Pay Any Price: greed, power and endless war*. Houghton, 2014. 978-0-544-34141-8. $28. What we lost in the ongoing response to 9/11. Investigative reporter looks closely at the US national security system. ED

Ronson, Jon. *So You’ve Been Publicly Shamed*. Riverhead Books, 2015, $27.95. 978-1594487132. A deeply compassionate look at one of our mostly closely held values – shame – and its contemporary evolution via social media. SC\*\*\*

Rowland, Amy. *The Transcriptionist*. Algonquin, 2014. $25. 978-1616202545 Quiet typist Lena lives in a NYC woman’s hotel and transfers stories from tape to digital at her prestigious paper. Someone she meets dies at the NY zoo, eaten by a lion. What do we make of this? AH

Schneier, Bruce. *Data and Goliath: the hidden battles to collect your data and control your world*. Norton, 2015. $27.95 978-0-393-24481-6. The loss of digital privacy is a trending topic. This is a superb examination of data mining, beautifully told. ED

LITERARY

*Bookmarks*. ( magazine) 6 issues. $27.95. [www.bookmarksmagazine.com](http://www.bookmarksmagazine.com) or 888-488-6593 to subscribe. Emily Zervas: a magazine every VT library needs. About 50 adult literary books, with compiled reviews; topic lists (classics, re-told); and a profiled book group. AH

Bowles, Jane. *Two Serious Ladies*, Ecco, 2014, Paper. $14.99. 978-0062283122. Incomparable cult favorite and only novel by Jane Bowles is back in print. Follow two women on their journeys of discovery and debauchery. SC

*Contemporary Vermont Fiction*. Robin MacArthur, ed. Green Writers Press, 2014. $20 Paper. 978-0989983822. Brattleboro imprint reminds us of the mix that is Vermont writing. Peter Gould, Wallace Stegner, Castle Freeman. Requires some hand-selling. AH

Macdonald, Helen. *H is for Hawk*. Grove Press, 2015. $26. 978-0802123411. Astonishing prose, compelling fierce story, and the chance for libraries to pull out all the stops for T.H. White and *The Sword in the Stone*. Sy Montgomery, Jane Goodall, Farley Mowat, good companions? AH

Manning, Molly Guptill. *When Books Went to War: the stories that helped us win World War II*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. $25. 978-0-544-53502-2. Entertaining history of the Armed Services editions, and the rise of the paperback: Great Gatsby, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn. ED

Markson, David & Lisa Sims. *Fare Forward: letters from David Markson*. PowerHouse Books, 2014. $12.95 Paper. 978-1576877005. Letters from experimental novelist to a young poet who befriends him in the final decade of his life create an accidental but moving self-portrait of the man and his work. SC

Norris, Mary. *Between You and Me: confessions of a comma queen*. Norton, 2015. $24.95. 978-0-393-24018-4. Laugh out loud book; partly memoir, partly a usage guide from 30 years in the New Yorker’s copy department. Examples from Dickens, *The Simpsons*, Gillian Flynn, et.al. ED

\*\*\* indicates the two top books for each reviewer.

AH Amy Howlett, Library Development Consultant, Vermont Department of Libraries

ED Ernie Drown, Director of Music, the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College

SC Selene Colburn, Assistant Library Professor, University of Vermont

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