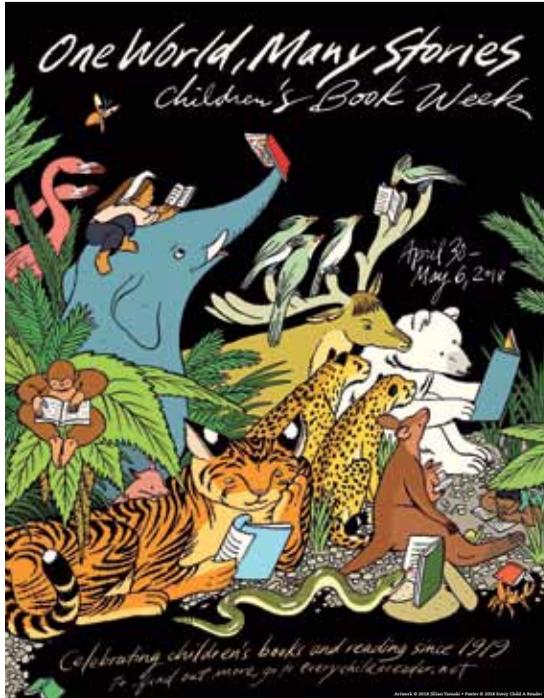


# MAY 2018

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A LEARNING VENTURES, LLC ENTERPRISE



## Celebrate Children's Book Week Saturday, May 5th

**11:00 am:** Story Time

**1:00 – 3:00 pm:** Scavenger Hunt for all ages – prizes!!



Vote for the National Children and Teen Choice Book Award and be entered to win a raffle!

## Mother's Day

We have a great selection of gifts and cards for the special mother in your life—candles, candy and, of course, books! And we gift wrap!



# STAFF PICKS



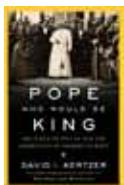
## The Monk of Mokha

by Dave Eggers

(Knopf)

**The Monk of Mokha** is a revelation. Not only for the information about the history of coffee or sense of Yemen, mostly for the hope it gave me in humanity. That was because the protagonist, Mokhtar Alkhanshali was someone whose persistence and courage against all adversity was amazingly formidable. Never mind the ongoing civil war in Yemen, being captured by a renegade group, talking his way through uncouncted checkpoints, somehow this man found his way through that maze and delivered a shipment of coffee to Oakland that was deemed the world's best by Coffee Review with a 97/100 rating. This makes sense since Yemen is said to be where the first coffee was brewed. We get a picture of him via Dave Egger's readable and compassionate portrayal not just of Mokhtar, but also the many people who helped him. Each new character is vividly portrayed. There was the general in his home village of Yemen who initially seemed scornful, but changed when he saw the shooting skills the coffee entrepreneur had developed shooting tin cans while growing up in California. Once the general took his side, village opposition and cynicism disappeared. Rarely do I find something that I don't want to put down, but the Monk of Mokha is surely one. For all the numerous setbacks there is triumph when the ship comes in. Yes, in a way I've blown the ending, but that fact is there from the beginning. The point is always the journey to that triumph.

- Dora Truong



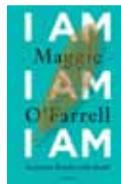
## The Pope Who Would Be King

by David Kertzer

(Random House)

Having written **The Pope and Mussolini** and **The Pope Against the Jews**, Kertzer certainly knows his popes. The subject of his latest book is Pope Pius IX, the last pope to reign over the Papal States. Revolution is erupting in Europe and Pius is caught between the Italian people (who want a unified Italy) and the more conservative authorities who want things to stay as they are. Kertzer is able to weave a riveting tapestry of political intrigue, religion, papal authority, freedom, monarchs, tradition, and the great Giuseppe Garibaldi. Pius himself is a compelling figure who would rather think about the Immaculate Conception than the future of Italy. This is an absorbing account of a momentous time in European history.

-Chris Byrnes



## I Am, I Am, I Am

by Maggie O'Farrell

(Knopf)

**I Am, I Am, I Am** is a breathtaking memoir about 17 moments in O'Farrell life that almost caused her death. There is no linear timeline to the stories, they are not in order of when they happened. You can pick up anywhere and each tale reads like its own short story. In one of the tales, the author explains that she is writing these stories for her children who may run into the same issues that she has had her whole life, and hopes to help guide them when they have similar experiences. She details each of these 17 times in her life, elegantly and honestly, in a way that makes you think about similar situations that you've experienced and how easy and quick life passes by. Some of the stories make you sad, make you feel helpless as she details emotional roller coaster rides, while others are exhilarating and striking and make you hold your breath to see what happens next. As Maggie is already a published author of literary fiction, it's no wonder that her elegant writing sweeps you into her life and stays with you long after you've finish reading.

- Sallie D. Mazzur



## Warlight

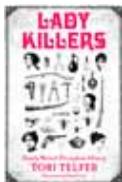
by Michael Ondaatje

(Knopf)

Michael Ondaatje (**The English Patient**, **Anil's Ghost**) has given us a great gift with this novel. Set in England in 1945, it is a tale of suspense and intrigue, told by Nathaniel in flashback. Two teens are placed in the care of a guardian of dubious honor. Their parents offer a simple explanation for leaving them behind, which proves to just be a cover. A fascinating view of children who realize their parents exist outside of the home and have complex and unknowable lives, the teens go on to have their own version of life without parents (for a while). A truly great story you can happily share with everyone!

- Jennifer Kandarian

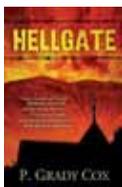
# AUTHOR & SPECIAL EVENTS



Thursday May 3 at 7pm  
Tori Telfer, **Lady Killers**

When you think of serial killers throughout history, the names that come to mind are ones like Jack the Ripper, John Wayne Gacy, and Ted Bundy. But what about Tillie Klimek, Moulay Hassan, Kate Bender? The narrative we're comfortable with is the one where women are the victims of violent crime, not the perpetrators. In fact, serial killers are thought to be so universally, overwhelmingly male that in 1998, FBI profiler Roy Hazelwood infamously declared in a homicide conference, "There are no female serial killers." **Lady Killers**, based on the popular online series that appeared on Jezebel and The Hairpin, disputes that claim and offers fourteen gruesome examples as evidence. Though largely forgotten by history, female serial killers such as Erzsébet Báthory, Nannie Doss, Mary Ann Cotton, and Darya Nikolayevna Saltykova rival their male counterparts in cunning, cruelty, and appetite for destruction.

*Tori Telfer is a freelance writer who writes frequently about crime, history, and the law. Her work has appeared in Salon, Vice, Jezebel, the Hairpin, the Awl, GOOD magazine, the Establishment, Racked, and elsewhere*



Saturday, May 12 at 4pm  
P. Grady Cox, **Hellgate**

Hellgate. The name strikes fear throughout Arizona Territory. Mason McCabe's nightmarish village huddles in an extinct volcano's crater. His business is stolen goods and stolen women. All criminals welcome. An outlaw, Caleb Connor, is protecting the captive Rose LaBelle, but her life is endangered when McCabe takes a personal interest in her. Rose fights the horrors of Hellgate while her Aunt Mary Alice, at her home in Prescott, the territorial capital, struggles with her own bondage to laudanum, alcohol, and morphine. **Hellgate** is a fast-paced story filled with realistic characters and historic details. The Gothic darkness of Hellgate juxtaposed with the civilized territorial capital provides the perfect backdrop for this story of courage, redemption, and triumph over despair.

*P. Grady Cox, born in Rhode Island, moved to Arizona in 1990. Her love of Arizona history enables her to vividly portray authentic settings and characters that will transport readers to Arizona Territory. This is her second novel; her first, Chasm Creek, was a finalist in historical fiction with the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards.*



Friday May 18th 7pm  
Karen Donovan,  
**Aardvark to Axolotl**

Karen Donovan's **Aardvark to Axolotl**, an eclectic series of tiny stories and prose poems, is based on a set of illustrations from the pages of her grandfather's 1925 **Webster's New International Dictionary**. The author collected pictures of plants and animals, diagrams and devices, and dozens of other charmingly quirky objects and created a new narrative context for each one. Sometimes sneaky mysterious, sometimes downright weird, these small poetic stories work on the reader like alternative definitions for items drawn from a cabinet of curiosities.

*Karen Donovan is the author of two collections of poetry, Fugitive Red (University of Massachusetts Press), which won the Juniper Prize, and Your Enzymes Are Calling the Ancients (Persea Books), winner of the Lexi Rudnitsky/Editor's Choice Award.*



Thursday May 31 at 7pm  
Kimberly Harrington,  
**Amateur Hour: Motherhood in Essays and Swear Words**

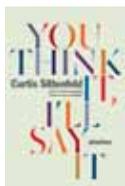
Welcome to essayist Kimberly Harrington's poetic and funny world of motherhood, womanhood, and humankind, not necessarily in that order. It's a place of loud parenting, fierce loving, too much social media, and occasional inner monologues where timeless debates are resolved such as Pro/Con: Caving to PTO Bake Sale Pressure ("PRO: Skim the crappiest brownies for myself. CON: They're really crappy.") With accessibility and wit, she captures the emotions around parenthood in artful and earnest ways, highlighting this time in the middle—midlife, the middle years of childhood, how women are stuck in the middle of so much. It's a place of elation, exhaustion, and time whipping past at warp speed. Finally, it's a quiet space to consider the girl you were, the mother you are, and the woman you are always becoming.

*Kimberly Harrington is a regular contributor to McSweeney's Internet Tendency, the co-founder and editor of parenting humor site RAZED, and a copywriter and creative director. Her work has appeared in The New Yorker, Timothy McSweeney's Quarterly Concern, and on Medium.*



## INDIE NEXT LIST

See what independent booksellers around the country are reading. Here are a few selections from the most recent Indie Bound Next List. These are all highly recommended and available now at Books on the Square.



### **You Think It, I'll Say It**

by **Curtis Sittenfeld**

(Random House)

"No one does a better job of writing about the high and low points of contemporary relationships than Curtis Sittenfeld. Her

characters are petty, flawed, tender, funny, and completely believable. The characters in **You Think It, I'll Say It** do not shy away from assuming they know those around them, making the twist when their misjudgments are revealed even more satisfying. While it is easy to fall in love with the insightful storytelling and humor, Sittenfeld's true gift is to make you recognize yourself in these pages."

- Luisa Smith, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA



### **The Mars Room**

by **Rachel Kushner**

(Scribner)

"Rachel Kushner writes some seriously smart and gorgeous prose, so when she headed to prison in **The Mars Room**, I went. It is dark. It is painful. At times, the level of detail in the

book and its fabulously invented and drawn characters make it feel like a documentary. We are struggling with so many social justice issues across the country right now it is overwhelming, and I worried that **The Mars Room** would push me over the edge. Instead, I couldn't stop reading. What really happened? Who is to blame? How will things turn out? How can we make things better? Ultimately, Kushner's great success is profoundly illustrating a very simple message: It's complicated."

—Sara Hinckley, Hudson Booksellers, Marietta, GA

## **HOLD ON TO THOSE RECEIPTS!**

In the months of January and July, bring in any of your old Books on the Square receipts and we will add them up and give you a store credit worth 10% of your purchases!

**It's our way of thanking you for your business!**  
**Speak to an associate for details.**

## BOOK CLUBS & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Book clubs and discussion groups are free and open to the public. Monthly book club selections will be discounted 10%.

### **HADASSAH BOOK CLUB**

- 5/7 @ 7pm **Heretics**,  
Leonardo Padura
- 6/4 @ 7pm **A Book of Separation**,  
Tova Mirvis
- 7/2 @ 7pm **The Second Winter**,  
Craig Larson

### **QUEER BOOK CLUB**

- 5/16 @ 7pm **Surpassing Certainty**,  
Janet Mock
- 6/20 @ 7pm **Call Me By My Name**,  
John Ed Bradley
- 7/18 @ 7pm **A Year of Celibacy**,  
Erin Judge

### **THE YOUNG ADULT LITCLUB**

- 5/21 @ 7pm **So You Want to Be a Wizard**,  
Diane Duane
- 6/18 @ 7pm **Annie on My Mind**,  
Nancy Garden
- 7/16 @ 7pm **Warcross**,  
Marie Lu

### **KIDS' STORY HOURS**

- Mon., Babies 10:30-11:00
- Sat., All Kids 11:00-11:30

**Please Note:** Sometimes our story times are cancelled due to sickness or inclement weather. You're welcome to give us a call around 10am to find out if our story hours are still taking place.