

Recommended by Daniel Goldin
("Season's Readings: Top Picks From Indie Booksellers")

The Hour Between, by Sebastian Stuart, paperback, 260 pages, Alyson Books, \$14.95

Await Your Reply, by Dan Chaon, Hardcover, 324 pages, Ballantine Books, \$25 (F)

Little Bee, by Chris Cleave, Hardcover, 288 pages, Simon & Schuster, \$24 (F)

Blame, by Michelle Huneven, Hardcover, 304 pages, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$25 (F)

Raymond Carver: A Writer's Life, by Carol Sklenicka, Hardcover, 592 pages, Scribner, \$35 (B)

Recommended by Rona Brinlee
("Season's Readings: Top Picks From Indie Booksellers")

Bad Things Happen, by Harry Dolan, Hardcover, 352 pages, Amy Einhorn Books/Putnam, \$24.95

Going Away Shoes, by Jill McCorkle, Hardcover, 272 pages, Algonquin Books, \$19.95 (F)

Logicomix: An Epic Search For Truth, by Apostolos Doxiadis and Christos H. Papadimitriou, Art by Alecos Papadatos and Annie DiDonna, Hardcover, 352 pages, Boomsbury USA, \$22.95

This Is Where I Leave You, by Jonathan Tropper, Hardcover, 352 pages, Dutton Adult, \$25.95 (F)

The Tree That Time Built, selected by Mary Ann Hoberman and Linda Winston, illustrated by Barbara Fortin, Hardcover, 224 pages, Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, \$19.99

Recommended by Lucia Silva
("Season's Readings: Top Picks From Indie Booksellers")

The Paris Review Interviews edited by Philip Gourevitch, Paperback, 1982 pages, Picador, \$65

Vanity Fair's Proust Questionnaire, edited by Graydon Carter, illustrated by Risko, Hardcover, 224 pages, Rodale Books, \$23.99

The Pattern In The Carpet: A Personal History With Jigsaws, by Margaret Drabble, Hardcover, 368 pages, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$25 (793.73)

The Contact Sheet, edited by Steve Crist, Hardcover, 192 pages, AMMO Books, \$39.95

Wallace Stevens: Selected Poems, by Wallace Stevens, edited by John N. Serio, Hardcover, 352, Knopf, \$30

**Recommended by Glen Weldon
("The Five Best Books To Share With Your Friends")**

Conquest of the Useless by Werner Herzog, Hardcover, 306 pages, Ecco Books/Harper Collins Press, \$24.99

Asterios Polyp, edited by David Mazzucchelli, Hardcover, 344 pages, Pantheon, \$24.99

The Collected Stories of Lydia Davis, by Lydia Davis, Hardcover, 733 pages, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$30

The Supergirls, by Mike Madrid, Paperback, Exterminating Angel Press, \$16.95 (741.5)

Everything Matters!, by Ron Currie Jr., Hardcover, 302 pages, Viking/Penguin, \$25.95 (F)

**Recommended by John McAlley
("Big And Beautiful: Best Gift Books of 2009")**

Norman Rockwell: Behind The Camera, by Ron Schick, Hardcover, 224 pages, Little, Brown, and Co., \$40

The TOON Treasury of Classic Children's Comics, edited by Art Spiegelman and Françoise Mouly, Hardcover, 352 pages, Abrams ComicArts, \$40

A New Literary History of America edited by Greil Marcus and Werner Sollors, Hardcover, 1128 pages, Harvard University Press, \$49.95

Painting Today, edited by Tony Godfrey, Hardcover, 448 pages, Phaidon Press, \$75

The Sartorialist by Scott Schuman, Paperback, 512 pages, Penguin, \$25

Charley Harper: An Illustrated Life, by Charley Harper and Todd Oldham, Hardcover, 424 pages, AMMO Books, \$49.95

The TOON Treasury of Classic Children's Comics, edited by Art Spiegelman and Françoise Mouly, Hardcover, 352 pages, Abrams ComicArts, \$40

Science: The Definitive Visual Guide, by Adam Hart-Davis, Hardcover, 512 pages, DK Adult, \$50

Photo-wisdom: Master Photographers And Their Art, by Lewis Blackwell, Hardcover, 216 pages, Chronicle Books, \$50

Q&A's from Vanity Fair's Proust Questionnaire by Graydon Carter, Illustrated by Risko, Hardcover, 224 pages, Rodale Books, \$23.99

Looking In: Robert Frank's The Americans edited by Sarah Greenough, Hardcover, 528 pages, Steidl, \$75 (779.9973)

**Recommended by T. Susan Chang
("The 10 Best Cookbooks of 2009")**

The Pleasures of Cooking for One by Judith Jones, Hardcover, 288 pages, Knopf, \$27.95

Asian Dumplings: Mastering Gyoza, Spring Rolls, Samosas, and More, by Andrea Nguyen, Hardcover, 240 pages, Ten Speed Press, \$30 (641.59)

Clean Food: A Seasonal Guide to Eating Close to the Source with More Than 200 Recipes for a Healthy and Sustainable You by Terry Walters, Hardcover, 304 pages, Sterling Epicure, \$30 (641.563)

Gourmet Today: More Than 1000 All-New Recipes for the Contemporary Kitchen, by Ruth Reichl, Hardcover, 1024 pages, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$40 (641.59)

Stir: Mixing It Up In The Italian Tradition by Barbara Lynch, Hardcover, 352 pages, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$35

Mastering the Art of Chinese Cooking, by Eileen Yin-Fei Lo, Hardcover, 384 pages, Chronicle Books, \$50

Savory Baking by Mary Cech, Paperback, 168 pages, Chronicle Books, \$24.95

Peter Reinhart's Artisan Breads Every Day, by Peter Reinhart, Hardcover, 224 pages, Ten Speed Press, \$30

The Craft of Baking by Karen DeMasco and Mindy Fox, Hardcover, 256 pages, Clarkson Potter, \$35

Rose's Heavenly Cakes, by Rose Levy Beranbaum, Hardcover, 512 pages, Wiley, \$39.95

**Recommended by Alan Cheuse
("Picks To Warm A Winter's Night")**

American Fantastic Tales edited by Peter Straub, Hardcover, 1500 pages, Library of America, \$70

Becoming Americans: Four Centuries of Immigrant Writing, edited by Ilan Stavans, Hardcover, 850 pages, Library of America, \$40

The Complete Stories of J.G. Ballard by J.G. Ballard, Hardcover, 1216 pages, W.W. Norton & Co., \$35

Manhood for Amateurs: The Pleasures and Regrets of a Husband, Father, and Son, by Michael Chabon, Hardcover, 320 pages, Harper, \$25.99 (B)

City Boy: My Life in New York During the 1960s and '70s by Edmund White, Hardcover, 304 pages, Bloomsbury USA, \$26

Treasure Island, by Robert Louis Stevenson, Illustrated by John Lawrence, Hardcover, 272 pages, Candlewick, \$24.99

**Recommended by Jess Crispin
("A World Of Novels: Picks For Best Foreign Fiction")**

Season of Ash: A Novel In Three Acts, by Jorge Volpi (Translated from Spanish by Alfred Mac Adam), Paperback, 464 pages, Open Letter, \$15.95

There Once Lived A Woman Who Tried To Kill Her Neighbor's Baby, by Ludmilla Petrushevskaya (Translated from Russian by Keith Gessen and Anna Summers), Paperback, 224 pages, Penguin, \$15

The Armies, by Evelio Rosero (Translated from Spanish by Anne McLean), Paperback, 208 pages, New Directions, \$14.95

The Confessions of Noa Weber, by Gail Hareven (Translated from Hebrew by Dalya Bilu), Paperback, 330 pages, Melville House, \$16.95

The Twin, by Gerbrand Bakker (Translated from Dutch by David Colmer), Hardcover, 250 pages, Archipelago, \$25