

## STAFF PICKS

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- ***The Late Lamented Molly Marx***  
by Sally Koslow

### Staff Review:

"This is a very quirky book. The main character is dead but hovers around watching, listening, and reading the minds of those left behind. She's trying to figure out who killed her, if it was an accident or intentional. It's a good beach read."

### From *Publishers Weekly*:

"Molly Divine Marx is dead. No one is quite sure how—murder, suicide, tragic accident?—and even Molly's own recollection doesn't explain much. Narrating this charming novel from an afterlife limbo known as the Duration, Molly follows the investigation of her death while keeping tabs on the living she left behind."

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- ***Beach Trip***  
by Cathy Holton

### Staff Review:

"These four girlfriends take a beach trip 20 years after college, when they went their separate ways. During the week they reveal their secrets, and renew their friendship. Another good beach read."

### From *Publishers Weekly*:

"Break out the tissues, sunblock and margarita mix as four old friends reunite after 23 years for a beach party in Holton's feast of Southern friendship (after *The Secret Lives of the Kudzu Debutantes*). Mel, Sara, Annie and Lola head out to Wild Dunes, a beachfront palace owned by Lola's super-rich husband on exclusive Whale Head Island in North Carolina's Outer Banks."

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- ***The Order of Things***  
by Lynne Hinton

### Staff Review:

"Andreas, a librarian, is depressed. When she checks herself into a facility she finds herself just going through the motions until the last night she is there. In the room next to her there is a prison inmate who is being temporarily housed there. They spend the night talking through the vent that connects the rooms."

### From *Booklist*:

"Hinton's matter-of-fact prose belies the complexity of the story being told...but readers will find much to enjoy."

- ***Oh, Johnny***  
**by Jim Lehrer**

**Staff Review:**

"This is a WWII romance. Johnny is a young man who is being scouted for a baseball team when he joins the Marines. Johnny meets Betsy on the train and never forgets her. After the war he comes home and is determined to find Betsy and marry her. It's about how war changes people, what sustains those who are on the front lines and how our dreams change."

**From *Publishers Weekly*:**

"PBS *NewsHour* anchor Lehrer mixes baseball, WWII and romance in his 19th novel...Even though Johnny Wrigley, from smalltown Lafayette, Md., is being scouted by the Detroit Tigers, he enlists in the Marines in April 1944. En route to deployment, Johnny meets Betsy, a striking but naively religious doughnut girl, falls instantly in love and seduces her. He vows he'll return for her, a quixotic obsession that sustains him through grittily rendered combat scenes in the Pacific."

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- ***The Mystery of Grace***  
**by Charles de Lint**

**Staff Review:**

"This is a supernatural love story. Grace restores/customizes hotrods, and John is an artist. They meet in a most unusual way and because of their persistence they acquire the courage to resolve unfinished business."

**From *Publishers Weekly*:**

"Following her death, auto restorer Altagracia "Grace" Quintero awakens in a timeless realm inhabited by her recently deceased neighbors. Briefly returned to our world during Halloween night, Grace falls in love with John, a young artist, and he returns the feeling even when he discovers her condition...The story develops through comforting, warm compassion to reach the inevitable, mostly satisfying solution."

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- ***Sweet By and By***  
**by Todd Johnson**

**Staff Review:**

"A very heartfelt and poignant story about a caretaker and the five Southern women she cares for in a nursing home. It's about memories, growing old, and friendship. It's gentle, sensitive and sometimes humorous."

**From *Publishers Weekly*:**

"Johnson's bittersweet and often humorous hen-lit debut portrays the lives of five very different Southern women: compassionate Lorraine, bossy Margaret, grief-stricken Bernice,

ambitious April and brusque Rhonda...The underlying message of the power of love and friendship resonates, as does its depiction of the way in which people leading unremarkable lives can have a tremendous impact on those around them."  
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- **Grave Goods**  
by Ariana Franklin

Staff Review:

"This historical mystery (the third title in *The Mistress of the Art of Death* series) is set in Glastonbury, England, in 1176. Henry II sends Adelia to investigate a pair of skeletons unearthed after a devastating fire. This excellent series is certain to appeal to fans of The Brother Cadfael mysteries, set only a few years earlier. The audio version is narrated by Kate Reading, and is a fine listen."

From *Publishers Weekly*:

"Starred Review. Franklin's excellent third *Mistress of the Art of Death* novel (after *The Serpent's Tale*) finds Adelia Aguilar, a qualified doctor from the School of Medicine in Salerno, in the holy town of Glastonbury, where Henry II has sent her to inspect two sets of bones rumored to be those of Arthur and Guinevere...Eloquently sketched characters, including a ragtag group of Glastonbury men down on their luck, and bits of medieval lore flavor the constantly unfolding plot."

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- **Prayers for Sale**  
by Sandra Dallas

Staff Review:

"This novel takes place in a mining town in the late 1800's. It's about a friendship between two women, one a long time resident and the other a young newcomer. It's beautifully written and full of hope."

From *Publishers Weekly*:

"In her charming new novel, Dallas (*The Persian Pickle Club*; *Tallgrass*; etc.) offers up the unconventional friendship between Hennie Comfort, a natural storyteller entering the twilight of her life, and Nit Spindle, a naïve young newlywed, forged in the isolated mining town of Middle Swan, Colo., in 1936...This satisfying novel will immediately draw readers into Hennie and Nit's lives, and the unexpected twists will keep them hooked through to the bittersweet denouement."

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- **Deadlock**  
by Iris Johansen

Staff Review:

"A good piece of fiction that brings in elements of history, mystery, and thriller."

From *Publishers Weekly*:

"Emily Hudson, a U.N. artifacts expert, is trying to track down a vicious criminal who may have stolen Zelov's hammer. Hidden inside the old mallet is a treasure map to the long-lost riches of Russia's assassinated Romanov family. Helping Hudson is a rough-and-ready CIA tracker, whose physical charms prove irresistible to the usually proud and independent Hudson."

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- ***Loitering With Intent***  
**by Stuart Woods**

Staff Review:

"Not my favorite of his, but it had some twists that surprised me."

From *Publishers Weekly*:

"Stone Barrington travels to Key West, Fla., in this easygoing entry in bestseller Woods's long-running series...Stone is supposed to track down Evan Keating, a young man whose signature is needed on documents allowing his father to sell the family business...Meanwhile, there's always time to enjoy good food and romance. Stone and Dino Bacchetti, his former NYPD partner, eat a lot of conch, while a beautiful Swedish doctor, Annika Swenson, learns the hard way that being involved with Stone is the most dangerous job in America."

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## **NON-FICTION**

- ***Always Looking Up: The Adventures of an Incurable Optimist***  
**by Michael J. Fox**

Staff Review:

"Great book – excellently written, and I could not put it down. Just as good, if not better, than his first."

From *Library Journal*:

"Fox, whose 2002 memoir, *Lucky Man*, was a No. 1 New York Times best seller, here continues his story, sharing the personal philosophy that has carried him through life and presenting touching accounts of his sister's death, a cross-country car trip with his youngest son, and his struggle with Parkinson's disease and its effect on his family. Through all the pain and joy, Fox stays positive, never slipping into self-pity."