

ALGONQUIN

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

Fiction

THE FUTURE OF LOVE

A Novel

By Shirley Abbott • April 2008 • 352 pages

In this fiction debut by the author of *Womenfolks*, *Love's Apprentice*, and *The Bookmaker's Daughter* (a New York Times Notable Book), love and death visit the young and the not-so-young alike. It is New York, 2001, and a cast of compelling characters is looking for love, and grappling with the choices and sacrifices they make to find it: Antonia and her daughter, Maggie; Maggie and her husband, Mark; Mark and his lover; Antonia and her lover, Sam; Sam and his wife; Sam and his granddaughter; Sam's granddaughter and her lover, all brought together in a modern-day comedy of manners.

Rights: Algonquin

A DANGEROUS AGE

A Novel

By Ellen Gilchrist • May 2008 • 256 pages

National Book Award winner Ellen Gilchrist (*Victory Over Japan*) has crafted a clever and stirring meditation on the consequences of war on family, and the ties that bind us all.

Rights: Susan Ramer, Don Congdon Associates (Algonquin holds Canada)

GOSSIP OF THE STARLINGS

A Novel

By Nina de Gramont • June 2008 • 288 pages

Catherine has already been kicked out of one prep school and has every intention of straightening up at her new boarding school – until Skye appears on the scene. Skye is the beautiful, charismatic daughter of a famous politician, and she and Catherine prove to be each others' own worst influences. Skye takes up cocaine, has an affair, precipitates

Catherine's dangerous fall from a horse, and runs up an exorbitant bill on a stolen credit card, leading herself and those around her into more trouble than they could have imagined. *Gossip of the Starlings* is a compelling novel of a girl spinning out of control, but it's also about the attractive and deceptive nature of danger itself, and how sometimes those who are at greatest risk are also those who make us feel most alive. Nina de Gramont is the author of Book Sense selection *Of Cats and Men*. Her fiction has appeared in Nerve, Post Road, Exquisite Corpse, and Seventeen Magazine.

Rights: World except UK and Germany – Algonquin
UK, Germany – Peter Steinberg, Regal Literary

MUDBOUND

A Novel

By Hillary Jordan • March 2008 • pages tk

Barbara Kingsolver has awarded this first novel the prestigious Bellwether Prize, saying: "This is storytelling at the height of its powers: the ache of wrongs not yet made right, the fierce attendance of history made as real as rain, as true as this minute. Hillary Jordan writes with the force of a Delta storm. Her characters walked straight out of 1940's Mississippi and into the part of my brain where sympathy and anger and love reside, leaving my heart racing. They are with me still." **MUDBOUND** is the powerful, heartwrenching story of Henry McAllan and his new bride, Laura, who move to a small town to raise a family and farm the land just as the celebrated soldiers of World War II, both white and black, return home. Included among the veterans are Henry's brother, Jamie, and Ronsel Jackson, son of the McAllan's tenant family. Not all soldiers were equally appreciated, as it turns out, and as Ronsel learns, some lines, especially among men and women, could never be crossed. Though the McAllans consider themselves enlightened and educated, they manage to become embroiled in and unwittingly abet a tragedy on the grandest scale.

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THE RESURRECTIONIST

A Novel

By Jack O'Connell • April 2008 • 320 pages

An extraordinary novel which is part noir, part futurist medical thriller, road warrior, fantasy, father-son love story – and altogether cinematic. *The Resurrectionist* follows several story lines which intersect in "Limbo". Sweeney and his son Daniel arrive at the mysterious clinic of the Drs. Peck, Sweeney to work night shift in the pharmacy, and Daniel as a patient in a coma. Among the staff who care for Daniel is a nymphomaniac nurse who runs with a motorcycle gang called the Abominations. And in Sweeney's pocket is a copy of *Limbo*, the comic book Daniel loved before his "incident." *Limbo* features circus freaks adrift in the hostile country of Gehenna, struggling to find the Chicken Boy's long-lost father before they are captured by the evil Dr. Fleiss. And lest all of this sound a bit bizarre, the common thread that leads all of these characters to

Limbo is love. The love of the circus freaks for each other, the love of the bikers for their leader, and the boundless love between Sweeney and Daniel. Will they all make it through Limbo? Read *The Resurrectionist* to find out...

Rights: **German and Japanese: Algonquin**
 UK and remaining translation: Nat Sobel, Sobel Weber

THE WIDOWS OF EDEN

A Novel

By George Shaffner • June 2008 • 320 pages

George Shaffner's third novel (after *In the Land of Second Chances* and *One Part Angel*) about the fictional Midwestern town of Ebb, its colorful denizens, and the mysterious stranger who graces their lives. Drought-plagued Ebb is losing the battle against a fragile ecology and fickle economics. Vernon Moore and three "coworkers," all widows with mysterious backgrounds much like Vernon's, come to save the town in a convoy of mammoth, chauffeur-driver recreational vehicles. Vernon saves the day with the help of the widows, restoring faith among the townsfolk and finally revealing his identity.

Rights: **Algonquin**

DOROTHY ON THE ROCKS

A Novel

By Barbara Suter • July 2008 • pages tk • paperback original

Playwright and actor Barbara Suter's debut is a coming-of-middle-age love story about funny, loveable, totally self-destructive Maggie, a 40-something actress and singer who earns just how small the world can be. Maggie drinks too much beer (or scotch if someone is buying) and smokes too many cigarettes (when she's not trying to quit). Once a lounge singer, Maggie is still aching from the loss of her accompanist, Andrew, who died three years before; she has not been able to sing since, and fears she may never have a singing career again. Then one morning she wakes up with a strange 20-something year old man in her bed, and suddenly finds herself starring in a totally improbable love story.

Rights: **Algonquin**

Non-Fiction

SIDE EFFECTS

By Alison Bass • July 2008 • pages tk

The true story of the making and unmaking of a best-selling drug. Former health reporter for [The Boston Globe](#) Alison Bass was nominated for a Pulitzer for her work tracking the case against Paxil manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline, told here in dramatic detail.

Rights: **Algonquin**

THE DINNER DIARIES: Raising Whole Wheat Kids in a White Bread World

By Betsy Block • May 2008 • 256 pages

A funny and ultimately inspiring account of one mother's intrepid effort to change the way she and her family eat, by a regular contributor to NPR's Kitchen Window.

Rights: Algonquin

SWIMMING WITH TARZAN

By Hodding Carter • June 2008 • pages tk • paperback original

Hodding Carter dreamed of being an Olympian as a kid. In college, he just missed qualifying for the Olympic trials in swimming, and although he also didn't qualify for the 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, or 2004 Olympics, he never stopped thinking he could get there. Now, at 42, he's determined to try one more time. *Swimming with Tarzan* will chronicle his journey toward that (probably unattainable) goal and his larger race to defeat time, swimming his way to a younger, more fit self. Carter is a contributing writer for Outside, in which a portion of his story appeared as "The 40-Year-Old Virgin Swimmer"). He has written for Smithsonian and Newsweek, among other publications, and is the author of *Westward, Whoa!*; *A Viking Voyage*; *Stolen Water*, and *Flushed*.

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