

ALGONQUIN

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2009

Fiction

PEEP SHOW

A Novel

By Joshua Braff • June 2010 • 272 pages • trade paperback original

It's 1975, and David Arbus has to make a choice following his parents' divorce. He can embrace his mother's newfound religious faith, joining her Orthodox Jewish sect. Or he can go into his father's somewhat unsavory line of work, running a burlesque theater in New York's Times Square. What is a seventeen-year-old boy to do? He joins the family business. *Peep Show* reveals the similarities between two closed worlds in which men and women are separated by a screen, observe peculiar rituals, and display fierce loyalties. Joshua Braff is the author of *The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green*.

Rights: Algonquin

THE PUZZLE KING

A Novel

By Betsy Carter • August 2009 • 352 pages

In the late 1800s, a young boy named Simon Phelps makes the treacherous journey from Lithuania to America, sent alone by his mother to earn enough money so that his family can eventually rejoin him there. Not long afterwards, a young girl named Flora Grossman crosses the same ocean, traveling from Germany to America with her sister, also intent on making her way in the new world so that her mother and younger sister can join them. *The Puzzle King* is the moving story of these two determined young people, their struggles and triumphs as Simon gains renown for his marketing genius, and the life that they build together. But their success is overshadowed by their concern for the families they have left behind, and eventually the dire situation in Europe in the 1930s leads Simon and Flora to a heroism neither could have imagined. This is a powerful and poignant story about love, family, and unexpected courage by the author of *Swim to Me*, *The Orange Blossom Special*, and *Nothing to Fall Back On*.

Rights: Algonquin

Rights sold: Portuguese (Brazil only) – Planeta do Brasil

THE GIRL WHO FELL FROM THE SKY

A Novel

By Heidi Durrow • February 2010 • 256 pages

Rachel, the daughter of a Danish mother and a black G.I., is the sole survivor of a family tragedy. With her strict African American grandmother as her new guardian, Rachel moves to a mostly black community where her light brown skin, blue eyes, and beauty bring a constant stream of mixed attention her way. As she attempts to come to terms with an unfathomable past, she confronts her own identity as a biracial young woman in a world that wants to see her as either black or white. *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky* is the winner of Barbara Kingsolver's 2008 Bellwether Prize, for which the citation reads: "Out of the clear blue, here is a breathless telling of a tale we've never heard before. Haunting and lovely, pitch-perfect, this book could not be more timely."

Rights: Algonquin

Rights sold: UK/ANZ – Oneworld Publications

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD

A Love Story

By Peter Nelson • April 2010 • 272 pages

A delightfully funny, deeply moving novel in which a down-on-his-luck writer recovers from alcoholism and divorce with the help of a talking dog named Stella. Paul Gustavson's wife has left him. His father, with whom he always had trouble speaking, has suffered a stroke and now can't talk at all. Instead of writing a brilliant novel, he's stuck working on *Nature for Morons*. His girlfriend is seeing another guy. Oh—and he drinks too much. The only real consolation in Paul's life is his retriever, Stella, whose dry wit and undying loyalty are sure to strike a chord with fans of *Marley and Me* and *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. Peter Nelson is the author of several books, including the nonfiction work *Left for Dead*.

Rights: Algonquin

MRS. DARCY AND THE BLUE-EYED STRANGER

New and Selected Stories

By Lee Smith • March 2010 • 304 pages

Lee Smith's short fiction, with seven brand new stories and seven favorites from the celebrated author's earlier work. Lee Smith is the author of *The Last Girls* and fourteen other books of fiction.

Rights: Darhansoff Verrill Feldman

THE FROZEN RABBI

A Novel

By Steve Stern • May 2010 • 368 pages

Fifteen-year-old Bernie Karp is digging through his parents' basement freezer in search of a piece of liver when he is shocked to discover, hidden under the meat, a frozen 19th-century Polish rabbi. Steve Stern's wonderfully inventive novel is the story of the rabbi, and of the generations of Bernie's family that participated in bringing him from the old world to the new. Beginning with the sudden flood that caused the rabbi to become encased in ice in 1889, through an amazing trip over both land and sea to America, and finally to the Memphis basement where Bernie finds both rabbi and religion, the rabbi brings both luck and misfortune—and never more so than when he thaws and sets out to preach to a new generation of believers. Steve Stern, winner of the National Jewish Book Award, is the acclaimed author of *The Angel of Forgetfulness*, among other works.

Rights: Algonquin

THE GHOST OF MILAGRO CREEK

A Novel

By Melanie Sumner • July 2010 • 256 pages • trade paperback original

A tale of love and murder set in contemporary New Mexico, *The Ghost of Milagro Creek* tells the story of Ignacia Vigil Romero and the two boys, Mister and Tomás, she raises to adulthood. Melanie Sumner is the author of *The School of Beauty and Charm* and *Polite Society*.

Rights: Georges Borchardt

AND... Algonquin is reissuing **Julia Alvarez's** first novel, **HOW THE GARCIA GIRLS LOST THEIR ACCENTS**, with a new reading guide. Published in 8 languages; more than 400,000 copies sold in English alone!

Non-Fiction

52 LOAVES

In Search of Truth, Meaning, and Really Good Bread

By William Alexander • April 2010 • 336 pages

William Alexander is determined to bake the perfect loaf of bread. He tasted it long ago, in a restaurant, and has been trying to reproduce it ever since. Now he's going to try every week for one year until he gets it right. He'll bake from scratch – *really* from scratch – growing, harvesting, and milling his own wheat, apprenticing at an artisan bakery, visiting yeast factories and flour mills, traveling to a French monastery, and more. *52 Loaves* encompasses the nature of obsession, the meditative quality of ritual, man's connection to the earth, the futility of trying to recreate something perfect, and the universal love for the aroma of baking bread. William Alexander is the author of *The \$64 Tomato*.

Rights: Algonquin

OUR NOISE

The Story of Merge Records, the Indie Record Label That Got Big and Stayed Small

**By John Cook with Mac McCaughan & Laura Ballance; introduction by Ryan Adams
September 2009 • 320 pages • with photographs • trade paperback original**

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of indie record label Merge Records. The story of this much-loved company is a lesson in how to make and market great art on a human scale. Here are behind-the-scenes stories of the bands Arcade Fire, Spoon, Superchunk, the Magnetic Fields, and more, illustrated with personal photos, cover art, handwritten lyrics, and other memorabilia.

Rights: Algonquin

THE BOY WHO LOVED TORNADOES

A Mother's Story

By Randi Davenport • March 2010 • 384 pages

Randi Davenport's story is a testament to human fortitude, to hope, and to a mother's uncompromising love for her children. From the start, Randi worked hard to provide her family with a sense of stability and strength, despite the challenges of having a son with autism and a husband whom she lost to schizophrenia. But then her teenage son was gripped by psychosis, becoming ever more tortured and unreachable, unable to recognize even his own mother.

Beautifully written and profoundly moving, this is the story of Randi's fight to save her son, to maintain a sense of normalcy for her daughter, and to confront the invisible demons that assail so many families. Randi Davenport's stories and essays have appeared in *The Washington Post* and other publications.

Rights: Algonquin

IN MY FATHER'S SHADOW

A Daughter Remembers Orson Welles

By Chris Welles Feder • November 2009 • 304 pages • with 50 black & white photos

Of the many stars and celebrities Hollywood has produced, only a handful have achieved the fame of Orson Welles. Many books have been written about him, detailing his achievements as an artist as well as his foibles as a human being. None of them, however, has gotten as close to the real man as does Chris Welles Feder's portrait of her father. A revealing yet affectionate look at life in the shadow of a legendary figure, and an entertaining story of growing up in the unreal reality of Hollywood, enhanced by Welles Feder's many never-before-seen family photographs. Chris Welles Feder is one of the authors of Workman's bestselling *Brain Quest* series.

Rights: **Algonquin** (except French, which is controlled by Raines & Raines)

Rights sold: **UK/ANZ** – Mainstream Publishing

HOLD ME TIGHT AND TANGO ME HOME

By Maria Finn • February 2010 • 240 pages

Maria Finn's husband was cheating. First she threw him out, then she cried, then she signed up for tango lessons. As Maria's world begins to revolve around the friendships she makes in dance class, we explore with her the fascinating culture, history, music, moves, and beauty of the Argentine tango. With each new dance step she learns, she is one step closer to returning to the world of the living. Inspiring and exhilarating, Maria's story whirls us into the center of the ballroom dancing craze.

Rights: **Algonquin**

Rights sold: **Dutch** – Arena; **Italian** – Istituto Geografico De Agostini

TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE GARDEN AND THE DOGS

Big Thoughts from Small-Town Alaska

By Heather Lende • May 2010 • 256 pages

The author of the bestselling memoir *If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name* again focuses on friends and family in her tiny hometown of Haines, Alaska. An obituary writer described as "part Annie Dillard, part Anne Lamott" by *The Los Angeles Times*, Lende was seriously injured in a car accident. In *Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs*, she looks at faith and community—the spiritual and earthly things that can get us all back up on our feet after life throws us a curve.

Rights: **Algonquin**

SETTLED IN THE WILD

Notes from the Edge of Town

By Susan Hand Shetterly • January 2010 • 256 pages

Whether we live in cities, suburbs, or villages, we are encroaching on nature, and it is encroaching on us. Naturalist Susan Shetterly looks at this balance of power—how animals, humans, and plants share the land—using her own neighborhood in rural Maine as an example. “*Settled in the Wild* is a lovely book, beautiful and enchanting, ocean-deep with the revelatory powers of discovery.”—*Rick Bass*. “Her prose is spare, elegant, rich in metaphor and haunting”—*Richard Russo*.

Rights: Algonquin

LIVES OF THE TREES

An Uncommon History

By Diana Wells • January 2010 • 368 pages • with line drawings

Diana Wells’s investigation into the world of trees reminds us of just how innately bound we are to these protectors of our planet. Not only do they feed and arm us, but we use their wood for warmth and cooking, their fibers for rope and baskets, and their pulp for paper and ink. *Lives of the Trees* is an entertaining exploration of the myths, legends, literature, etymology, folklore, and history associated with trees. Diana Wells is the author of *100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names* and *100 Birds and How They Got Their Names*.

Rights: Algonquin

AND... Algonquin is happy to announce a last-minute addition to our Fall 2009 list, **HARD WORK: A Life On and Off the Court, by Roy Williams with Tim Crothers**, with a Foreword by John Grisham. This story of the life and work of the most successful coach in the history of college basketball is “all-out inspiring!”—*Michael Jordan*.

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