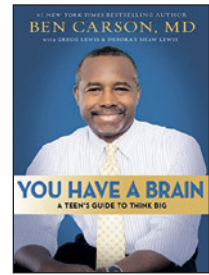


BOOK MARKS

2/3

YOU HAVE A BRAIN: A TEEN'S GUIDE TO THINK BIG Nonfiction

By Dr. Ben Carson, with Gregg Lewis and Deborah Shaw Lewis Zondervan, \$16.99



The neurosurgeon and conservative thinker has advice for teens under the acronym THINK BIG (Talent, Honesty, Integrity,

TRIGGER WARNING: SHORT FICTIONS AND DISTURBANCES

Fiction

By Neil Gaiman
William Morrow, \$26.99

Fantasy author Neil Gaiman collects 25 of his favorite recent stories and poems that explore the dark corners of the imagination, including a new Sherlock Holmes story

and "Nothing O'Clock," written for the Matt Smith-era "Doctor Who" but never produced.

HOLY COW: A MODERN-DAY DAIRY TALE

Fiction

By David Duchovny
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$24

"The X-Files" and "Californication" star David Duchovny has written a rollicking comedy about a cow who wises up to her slaughterhouse fate and with the help of a Torah-reading pig and an iPhone-using turkey is

able to escape. And that's the beginning of their globe-trotting adventures.

2/17

COOK YOUR BUTT OFF!: LOSE UP TO A POUND A DAY WITH FAT-BURNING FOODS AND GLUTEN-FREE RECIPES

Nonfiction

By Rocco DiSpirito
Grand Central Life & Style, \$26

Star of Food Network's "Restaurant Divided" delivers up this guide to cooking healthy and making delicious dishes — all of them

sugar-, gluten- and lactose-free.

2/24

GIRL IN A BAND: A MEMOIR

Nonfiction

By Kim Gordon
Dey Street Books, \$27.99

The founder of the influential noise-rock group Sonic Youth looks back on her career, growing up in California, moving to New York,

her marriage to fellow band member Thurston Moore, her daughter, and much more in this memoir from a usually private individual.

Note: Release dates subject to change.

— Ted Mills, News-Press correspondent

National Book Critics Circle announces award finalists

By MARION WINIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The National Book Critics Circle Tuesday announced 30 finalists for its annual literary awards, given to the best autobiography, biography, criticism, fiction, general nonfiction and poetry of 2014.

Among those named are Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Marilynne Robinson, New Yorker cartoonist Roz Chast, French economist Thomas Piketty and former Newsday editor Miriam Pawel, who supervised the team that covered the crash of TWA Flight 800 off Long Island in 1996.

For the first time in the group's 41-year history, a single book has been nominated in two categories: Claudia Rankine's "Citizen" (Graywolf Press) is a finalist in poetry and criticism.

The group also announced the recipients of three special awards. Toni Morrison, 83, will receive the Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award for her work as a novelist, editor, teacher and cultural critic. Phil Klay's story collection "Redeployment" (Penguin Press) is to get the John Leonard Prize for a best first book in any genre. Mr. Klay won the National Book Award last November. The Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in

Reviewing will go to Alexandra Schwartz, an assistant editor at The New Yorker.

Winners of the National Book Critics Circle awards will be announced on March 12. The awards are nominated and chosen by the group's board of 24 critics and book review editors.

Here are some of the categories and finalists:

Autobiography

Blake Bailey, "The Splendid Things We Planned" (W.W. Norton & Co.)

Roz Chast, "Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?" (Bloomsbury)

Lacy M. Johnson, "The Other Side" (Tin House)

Gary Shteyngart, "Little Failure" (Random House)

Meline Toumani, "There Was and There Was Not" (Metropolitan Books)

Biography

Ezra Greenspan, "William Wells Brown: An African American Life" (W.W. Norton & Co.)

S.C. Gwynne, "Rebel Yell: The Violence, Passion and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson" (Scribner)

John Lahr, "Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh" (W.W. Norton & Co.)

Ian S. MacNiven, "Literchoor Is My Beat: A Life of James Laughlin, Publisher of New Directions" (Farrar, Straus &

Giroux)

Miriam Pawel, "The Crusades of Cesar Chavez" (Bloomsbury)

Fiction

Rabih Alameddine, "An Unnecessary Woman" (Grove Press)

Marlon James, "A Brief History of Seven Killings" (Riverhead Books)

Lily King, "Euphoria" (Atlantic Monthly Press)

Chang-rae Lee, "On Such a Full Sea" (Riverhead Books)

Marilynne Robinson, "Lila" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

General nonfiction

David Brion Davis, "The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation" (Alfred A. Knopf)

Peter Finn and Petra Couvee, "The Zhivago Affair: The Kremlin, the CIA, and the Battle over a Forbidden Book" (Pantheon)

Elizabeth Kolbert, "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History" (Henry Holt & Co.)

Thomas Piketty, "Capital in the Twenty-First Century," translated from the French by Arthur Goldhammer (Belknap Press/Harvard University Press)

Hector Tobar, "Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine, and the Miracle that Set Them Free" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

She felt the spiritual energy

■ SOUL

Continued from Page A7

Press. "After 20 minutes, Dwight told me to open my eyes. What do I see by my feet? A dog, unmoving, staring at me. It was one of those situations in life that gives you goose bumps."

The dog reminded her of Anubis, the Greek god who guides souls to the underworld. She said she wouldn't know what the dog's presence meant until several years later when she went into a cathedral in Chartres, France, and learned more about herself.

Ms. Meritt said she felt the spiritual energy in places such as the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. She laid in the sarcophagus in the King's Chamber, a room near the top of the pyramid, in darkness.

"You can transcend confines of your ordinary consciousness," she said. "Those experiences are very difficult to convey in words."

She said that in Herculaneum, Italy, which, like Pompeii, was decimated by Mount Vesuvius, she sensed the presence of a girl who died during the volcano's eruption. "I didn't see her, but I had a feeling about her being there."

She added she was impressed with the megaliths in Brittany, the French area where, according to lore, the fairy Viviane imprisoned the magician Merlin, as well as Mycenae, Greece, the site of myths.

After their time in Europe, Ms. Meritt and Mr. Johnson taught in 2004 and 2005 at the School Down Under, a school for American students, in North Island in New Zealand. They returned in 2006 to Santa Barbara, where Ms. Meritt became certified at UCSB in teaching English as a Second Language. Ms. Meritt, who became a U.S. citizen a few years ago,



PHOTOS COURTESY SVETLANA MERITT

Santa Barbara resident Svetlana Meritt visited the Delphi Oracle in Greece.



The Dendera Temple in Egypt and other temples in the nation impressed Ms. Meritt during her travels.

teaches ESL and citizenship for those planning to become U.S. citizens at Santa Barbara City College and UCSB Extension.

Mr. Johnson, who had a history of health problems, died in 2010.

Ms. Meritt, who's also a photographer whose "Rhapsody in Blue," an abstract photo, is part

FYI

Santa Barbara author Svetlana Meritt will sign "Meet Me in the Underworld: How 77 Sacred Sites, 770 Cappuccinos & 26,000 Miles Led Me to My Soul" (Hypatia, \$19.95) 5:30 to 7 p.m. Feb. 12, its release date, at Granada Books, 1224 State St. (845-1818). The author plans to sell the book at other local stores. It can be pre-ordered at www.svetlanameritt.com and www.amazon.com.

of the "Hundred Grand" exhibit at Sullivan Goss: An American Gallery on Anapamu Street, said her and her husband's travels around the world taught her to be more understanding, tolerant and compassionate and less judgmental.

"I learned that what's really important in my life is to help others in every way that I can, to inspire others to live more meaningful lives."

email: dmason@newspress.com

Literary Events

SAT 1/24

Day of Authors: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Bank of Books, 748 E. Main St., Ventura. Featuring, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Karen Banfield of "Tarantulas Fudge and Altered Reality"; 1-3 p.m., Brad Rote, of "Dark Moon in the 12th House"; and, 3-5 p.m., Talin Aintablian, of "Because He Said So." Free. 643-3154.

MON 1/26

Book Signing and Discussion: 8 p.m. UCSB Corwin Pavilion. Speaker is Eric Lichtblau, author of "The Nazis Next Door: How America Became a Safe Haven

for Hitler's Men." Books available for purchase and signing. Presented by Herman P. and Sophia Taubman Foundation Endowed Symposia in Jewish Studies at UCSB. Free. 893-2317.

TUES 1/27

Book Signing: 7 p.m. Chaucer's Books, 3321 State St. John J. Gobbell, former Naval officer and author of historical military thriller "Edge of Valor." Free. 682-6787.

Submit events two weeks in advance to listings@newspress.com

Women were imprisoned in corsets

■ DIOR

Continued from Page A6

system, just ladies applying makeup with pink powder puffs. (But lest you think it's more quaint than glamorous, check out Marlene Dietrich and her pal, Jean Cocteau, in the front row.)

Ms. Goetzinger also shows us how, to some, Mr. Dior's extravagant designs represented a welcome end to the restrictions

of wartime rationing, while others considered them a dangerous throwback to a time when women were imprisoned in corsets.

The book's text, translated from French, is written in a formal yet exuberant style and contains the occasional, inevitable funny turn of phrase (such as "lady-readers"). But this in-translation style of prose only adds to the mystique of the story — to its

Frenchness — which is sure to be appreciated by fashion lovers everywhere.

Nationally syndicated, Katie Haegle is a freelance book reviewer and author of the new book "Slip of the Tongue" (Microcosm Publishing), a collection of essays about language. Her graphic novel reviews appear monthly. Email her at books@newspress.com.

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