

Editors' Choice

MOONGLOW, by Michael Chabon. (Harper/HarperCollins, \$28.99.) In this beautifully written hybrid, a San Francisco writer named Mike presents a memoir about his grandparents, a World War II soldier and a Holocaust survivor.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: The War Years and After. Volume Three: 1939-1962, by Blanche Wiesen Cook. (Viking, \$40.) The long-awaited conclusion of a monumental and inspirational biography.

THE POPE OF PHYSICS: Enrico Fermi and the Birth of the Atomic Age, by Gino Segre and Bettina Hoerlin. (Holt, \$30.) An assured and informative biography of the pioneering nuclear scientist.

THEY CAN'T KILL US ALL: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement, by Wesley Lowery. (Little, Brown, \$27.) A chronicle of black deaths, examined humanely and forthrightly by a skillful reporter.

THE PEOPLE AND THE BOOKS: 18 Classics of Jewish Literature, by Adam Kirsch. (Norton, \$28.95.) Detailed and lucid accounts of seminal texts highlight the variety of Jewish experience.

INCARNATIONS: A History of India in Fifty Lives, by Sunil Khilnani. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$30.) A whirlwind tour of 2,500 years of Indian history through 50 authoritative biographical sketches.

I'LL SELL YOU A DOG, by Juan Pablo Villalobos. Translated by Rosalind Harvey. (And Other Stories, paper, \$15.95.) In this savagely funny novel, a Mexico City taco seller is urged to write fiction.

VALIANT GENTLEMEN, by Sabina Murray. (Grove, \$27.) An audacious historical novel about the Irish revolutionary martyr Roger Casement.

THE KID, by Ron Hansen. (Scribner, \$26.) Hansen's deeply researched novel tells the familiar story of Billy the Kid in a spry and inventive way.

The full reviews of these and other recent books are on the web: nytimes.com/books.

Paperback Row

RECLAIMING CONVERSATION: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age, by Sherry Turkle. (Penguin, \$17.) Dialogue is a gateway to developing introspection and compassion, Turkle argues, but as technology mediates more of our conversations, our interpersonal and emotional skills have deteriorated precipitously. Turkle cautions against the unquestioning embrace of technology, calling instead for a return to face-to-face talks and more personal interaction.

THE VISITING PRIVILEGE: New and Collected Stories, by Joy Williams. (Vintage, \$16.95.) Gathered in part from her previous collections but including 13 stories new in book form, these tales exhibit Williams's trademark blend of grim humor and despair; in the title story, a woman finds unexpected solace in visits to her friend being treated for depression. The book amounts to what our reviewer, Ben Marcus, called "one of the most fearless, abyss-embracing literary projects our literature has seen."

TRANS: A Memoir, by Juliet Jacques. (Verso, \$19.95.) The author, who chronicled her sex-reassignment surgery and transition in columns for The Guardian, writes lucidly about her coming-

of-age and experiences of feeling out of place. As she puts it, "I felt trapped not by my body but a society that didn't want me to modify it."

AS CLOSE TO US AS BREATHING, by Elizabeth Poliner. (Lee Boudreaux/Back Bay/Little, Brown, \$15.99.) Three Jewish sisters converge on a familiar summer destination, a stretch of Connecticut's coast known as Bagel Beach, and find comfort in domestic rituals, religion and one another. Poliner's wide-ranging novel, narrated by one of the sisters' children, flits back and forth in time over a nearly hundred-year period, with a family tragedy at the story's center.

BIG SCIENCE: Ernest Lawrence and the Invention That Launched the Military-Industrial Complex, by Michael Hiltzik. (Simon & Schuster, \$18.) Lawrence, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, played a role in the Manhattan Project, and his inventions helped set a trend of enormous projects. But chief among his contributions was developing, as one admirer put it, "the modern way of doing science." By forging closer ties between science and politics, he helped make science far more interdisciplinary.

THE GREEN ROAD, by Anne Enright. (Norton, \$15.95.) The members of an Irish family, after years in far-flung locales, return for what might be a final Christmas holiday together. In this masterly novel, Enright, the 2007 Man Booker winner, writes as expertly about the AIDS crisis in New York and humanitarian work in Mali as she does about Ireland.

THE NIXON TAPES: 1973, edited by Douglas Brinkley and Luke A. Nichter. (Mariner/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$16.95.) In these illuminating transcripts, the president's words from a turbulent period speak for themselves. At the outset of this volume of the tapes, Nixon has won re-election but soon turns to obsessing over the gathering Watergate scandal and plotting his response. ^h

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