

THE INDEPENDENT HANDSELLERS LIST

Local interest, obscure gems and tried and true favourites make up this assortment of titles that Canadian independent booksellers recommend with confidence.

Brome Lake Books, Knowlton, QC

The Last Chinese Chef: A Novel

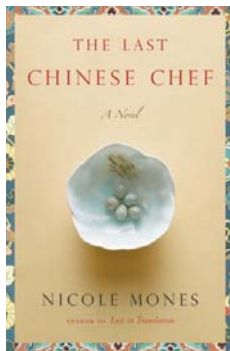
by Nicole Mones (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt / Thomas Allen)

The Last Chinese Chef is a great read for foodies, world travelers and devourers of good fiction alike.

Nicole Mones dishes up fine cuisine steeped in history with a side order of passion and intrigue.

American food writer Maggie McElroy travels to Beijing to uncover a paternity claim and discovers that “food can heal the human heart.”

- Danny McAuley



Parenting from the Inside Out explains how these early relationships affect the development of the brain and offers parents a practical approach to forming a deeper understanding of their own life stories.

No More Meltdowns: Positive Strategies for Managing and Preventing Out-of-Control Behavior by Jed Baker, with a foreword by Carol Stock Kranowitz (Future Horizons)

Along the same lines as the previous title, we like this one for its focus on how understanding parental behavior can be the key to changing a child's behavior. This title is especially popular with parents of children with Autism Spectrum disorders.

Smart but Scattered: the Revolutionary “Executive Skills” Approach to Helping Kids Reach Their Potential by Peg Dawson & Richard Guare (The Guilford Press / Georgetown Publications)

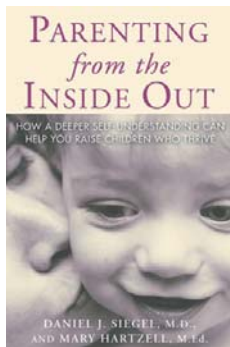
The current ‘it’ phrase, Executive Skills are in! We like books that focus on maximizing a child's strengths and finding ways to minimize or work with weaknesses. *Smart but Scattered* does that in a very positive and realistic manner.

- Parentbooks Staff

Parentbooks, Toronto, ON

Over the years at Parentbooks we have come to believe that parenting begins with the parents. Sounds obvious, but books that encourage parents to look at their own childhood experiences in relation to the choices they make as parents are not always the most obvious option when parents are struggling with behavioral issues.

Parenting from the Inside Out: How a Deeper Self-Understanding Can Help You Raise Children Who Thrive by Daniel Siegel & Mary Hartzell (Tarcher / Penguin Canada)

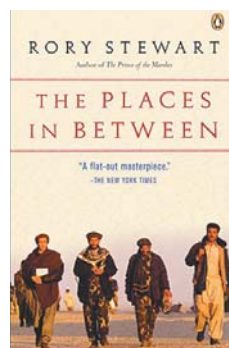


Curiosity House Books & Gallery, Creemore, ON

The Places In Between

by Rory Stewart (Penguin Canada)

A fascinating account of Rory Stewart's walk between Herat and Kabul, in the winter months, just



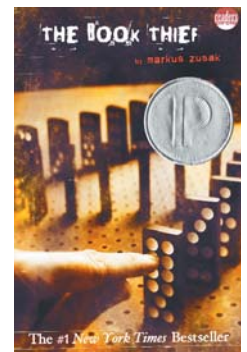
after the fall of the Taliban. He carries with him a copy of the diary of Babur, the first Emperor of India, who undertook the same journey in about 1505. Sometimes the views Stewart sees are no different than Babur's. A gripping, sometimes funny and extremely well written book.

Too Close to the Falls by Catherine Gildiner (ECW Press)

A memoir of Gildiner's childhood growing up in Niagara Falls, N.Y. in the 1950s. It is laugh-out-loud funny and also poignant and moving. Although it was published in 2000 it is still one of our top sellers. Random House will be releasing the sequel in their Fall List.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (Knopf Books for Young Readers)

Although released as YA novel I am now selling this book to adults and also recommending it to book clubs. The narrator is Death and the story is told from the point of view of a young girl in Germany during WWII. This book is haunting, achingly sad in parts and ultimately hopeful.



The Nine Lives of Charlotte Taylor

by Sally Armstrong (Random House Canada)

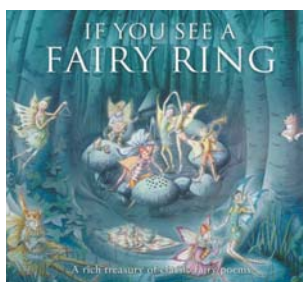
A fictional account of the life of Armstrong's great-great-grandmother. A wonderful personal story of an extremely strong and adventurous woman who arrived and settled in the Miramichi area in the tumultuous period surrounding the American Revolution. A great read.

- Catherine Randall

If You See a Fairy Ring

by Susan Lockheart (Barron's Educational Series / Georgetown Publications)

If You See a Fairy Ring is a fascinating book which allows readers to step into fairyland, using the words of such classic poets as William Shakespeare and Robert Graves. Illustrator Susan Lockheart has combined enchanting watercolours with carefully engineered pages, which literally change pictures as each page is turned. The beautiful and engaging verses combine with "magical" colour illustrations to make this book a wonderful gift for children of all ages. This is sure to become a modern classic for a new generation of young poetry lovers.



My First Nursery Stories

by author/illustrator Tony Ross (Andersen Press)

My First Nursery Stories is a delightful introduction to the best read-aloud nursery stories. The text of these stories is engaging and easy to use for storytelling and independent reading. This is an essential selection of timeless classics, along with his companion book *Three Little Kittens and Other Favourite Nursery Rhymes*. The illustrations in both of these books are delightful, with a silliness which is sure to appeal to both kids and parents alike.

Stellaluna

by Janell Cannon (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt / Thomas Allen & Son)

This is a wonderful story of a baby fruit bat who becomes separated from her mother. After being "taken in" by a family of birds, she finds herself living in a nest, learning the differences and similarities between their habits and tastes. The care of her delightful foster family keeps her alive until a touching reunion with her real mother. This book is a sensitive commentary on the importance of diversity, of family connections and of a mother's love. Gentle text and beautiful illustrations make it a favourite of children and grandparents.

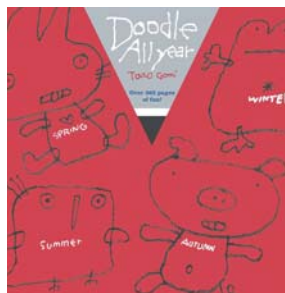
Doodles: A Really Giant Coloring and Doodling Book

Squiggles: A Really Giant Drawing and Painting Book

Scribbles: A Really Giant Drawing and Coloring Book

—three great choices from Japanese children's author Taro Gomi. (Chronicle Books / Raincoast)

Every page in these imaginative and fat workbooks is designed to spur creative thinking. Simple to start and completely entertaining, these books are perfect for doodlers and artists of all ages. *Doodle All Year* (also by Gomi) is a whole year's worth of entertainment, featuring engaging drawings of spring, summer, fall and winter scenes along with clear instructions and activities that are sure to spark the imagination. A never-ending fund of creative play...



- Miriam Vince

McNally Robinson - Grant Park, Winnipeg, MB

A Northern Light

by Jennifer Donnelly (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt / Thomas Allen & Son)

Tamar by Mal Peet (Candlewick)

Although there are many YA novels that we can't seem to keep in stock because they are so popular (*City of Bones* and *City of Light*, by Cassandra Clare; *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow; *The House of Night* series by P.C. Cast), here are two that sell consistently here:

A Northern Light is a historical murder mystery set in 1906. *Tamar* is about two men who are parachuted into Holland to help the Dutch Resistance circa 1944, who fall in love with the same woman.



- Joan Marshall

Café Books, Canmore, AB

Notes Before You Go by Vesna Bailey (www.NotesbeforeYouGo.com)

These wonderful books (*Notes to My Son* and *Notes to My Daughter - Before You Go*) were independently published and originally brought into our store by a friend of the author who wondered if we would sell them—what a discovery! Written from the heart for her own children, and full of the most beautiful black and white photographs of the authors family and life events, the books carry a message we all want to pass to our children as they grow into adulthood. They are nothing like the ordinary mass-produced gift books and *Notes to My Son* rightly deserved the Independent Publisher's 2008 "IPPY" Award Gift category. Customers have also taken them to heart and we sell multiples to the same family. It is not a hard handsell the books sell themselves and I defy any parent to not shed the odd tear. It has become our bestselling gift book. Thank you Vesna for sharing such a wonderful message with us and our families.

Kiss the Sunset Pig

by Laurie Gough (Penguin Canada)

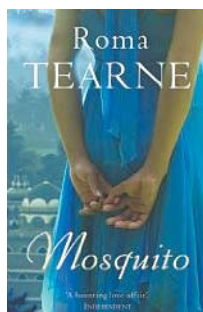
For anyone who adored Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat, Pray, Love*, this poignant travel memoir by Laurie Gough will feel familiar. What I especially enjoyed was the Canadian flavour and perspective of this particular travel story. Gough's raw and humble approach to looking at her life story touched on several emotions and themes that have fueled my own traveling obsessions over the years. Confused and exhausted by a series of life choices and a career path that didn't quite turn out the way she had thought, Laurie's story weaves together these personal struggles, her search for her own identity as an adult, and a look back at the adventures around the globe that defined her younger self. As she drives to California in her unreliable Ford Bronco that she has named Marcia, Gough's writing style immediately makes you feel as though you are in the passenger seat with one of your best friends. If you yearn for running away, getting lost, disappearing, packing your car and just driving until you run out of money, or buying a ticket to anywhere, then this is the book for you.

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Mosquito by Roma Tearne
(HarperCollins Canada)

This is a great handsell. It is about the love between a writer who has returned to his beloved homeland against advice and the young artist who finds sanctuary in the grounds of his beach house. Set in Sri Lanka in the midst of the political turmoil that overcame the country, it should appeal to those who enjoyed *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* but also to others who want a story about the endurance of love across time and age and violence. Roma Tearne, born in Sri Lanka, has captured the atmosphere of her homeland with vivid insight and writes a powerful novel mixing the sensuality of art and love with the horror and violence of loss and war and brings out the spirit of man to live with hope and acceptance.



Nuptse & Lhotse in Nepal
by Jocey Asnong (4th Floor Press, Inc.)

Guaranteed to put a smile on the face of adult and child readers alike, this is a beautifully written book with amazing illustrations that will grab the attention of even the youngest audience. The two curious cats, Nuptse and Lhotse, uncover a map of Nepal whilst searching for their lost marbles; the map shows two mountains flanking Everest: one called Nuptse and one called Lhotse! They simply have to go on a feline adventure to see their mountains. Now, what should they put in their backpacks? If you have ever travelled, enjoyed cats, recognize original artwork or simply want a good read, this one is for you. It's full of fun and useful information, and Nuptse has a pocket full of jelly beans for when you are scared of those little things that pop up in life—like rope bridges across ravines!!!

- Joy McLean

*Thanks to all of our bookseller contributors who responded so thoughtfully and eloquently.
If you've got a handselling hit on your hands, or staff recommendations to offer,
please forward your picks to esinkins@cbabook.org.*

Booked and Photographed

*Opening Day at Roxanne Reads,
a new and used bookstore
in Toronto's Historic Riverside District.*



PARTING WISDOM

**National Public Readings Program
helps bring authors to bookstores**

Did you know that the The Writers' Union of Canada (TWUC) funds a National Public Readings Program, designed to bring authors to public venues (like bookstores) for promotional events? Booksellers must apply at least four weeks before the arranged visit. If your application is approved, TWUC will pay your guest author a \$250 honorarium for a full (solo) reading or a \$125 honorarium for a half (joint) reading upon receipt of the author's completed Reading Report and Invoice.

There is a maximum of \$250 (solo)/\$125 (joint) in travel expenses per reading available. As host, you are responsible for the author's accommodations and meals. TWUC's Fall funding period runs between September 1 to March 31 and the Spring runs from April 1 to August 31. The number of readings allowed per session is limited, and when the funds are used up, the program is closed for the year. So, if you're interested, act fast: visit

http://www.writersunion.ca/rd_nationalreadings.asp
to view the eligibility requirements.