

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.

BakkaPhoenix Books,
Toronto, ON

The Bell at Sealey Head

by Patricia A. McKillip
(ACE / Penguin Canada)

In Sealey Head, an invisible bell rings every sunset. There is an ancient house whose doors occasionally open into another world. Magic and memory are tangled like vines in an old story, and past and present come rushing together to discover their future. A lovely read.



Anathem

by Neal Stephenson (William Morrow / HarperCollins Canada)

Neal Stephenson clearly knows and loves his characters. The book breathes with a sense of their believable (often geeky) missteps as they grapple with what they can know of their universe in time to save it. Not for everyone: this is Stephenson at his slow-moving, deep-thinking best.

Vampire Haiku

by Ryan Mecum (HOW Design Books)



This series of poems chronicles the doings of a vampire, from his 'death' in 1620 to his unlife today with humour and charm. The narrator cuts a swathe through history and popular culture.

An example: "Those were not vampires./ If sunlight makes you sparkle./ you're a unicorn."

- Chris Szego

Books For Business,
Toronto, ON

Brand: It Ain't the Logo (It's What People Think of You)

by Ted Matthews (lulu.com)

Brand is a neat little book that posits that you can spend all the money you want on advertising a brand, but unless everyone in the company embraces a set of behaviours that support the brand, and act accordingly, it will become just another management whim.



Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity

by David Allen (Penguin Paperbacks)

This bestseller is one of our favourites on time management. Our associate Josh Majonis says that reading this book changed his life and how he does things.

- Jane Cooney

Gulliver's Quality Books &
Toys, North Bay, ON

How I Discovered Fair Trade—And Some Special Finger Puppets!

In January 2009 I attended the Toy Fair, looking for new products to stir children's imagination (as a former early childhood educator) and also support my values.

I met Sue Berlove, a Fair Trade entrepreneur, selling "Three Bags Full Finger

Puppet Pouches." These original sets of animal finger puppets are made by poor Bolivian women. Sue works directly with the group of women, called Ayni Bolivia, helping them develop a sustainable business.



I can support Fair Trade, at the same time as I offer customers a high quality handcrafted toy that engages children in open-ended, imaginative play. The colourful knit carrying bag doubles as a storyboard, because the puppets snap onto a scene that has been painted on the front of the bag (also called a "pouch"). This encourages storytelling and is also used by professionals who work in the area of early literacy (they come with a list of suggested storybook for each of the six theme sets).

The people who buy them from me (I have already placed a second order) are parents, grandparents and teachers—customers who appreciate high quality books and toys. Customers don't care about the price when they see the article. These pouches stood out at the Toy Fair in terms of appeal and originality.

- Suzanne Brooks

For more information contact Sue Berlove, Indigenous Crafts from Bolivia & Three Bags Full Finger Puppet Pouches, at sueberlove@yahoo.ca or (416) 481-4064, or visit www.craftsfrombolivia.com.

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. 