

A small bird with a reddish-brown head and grey body is perched on a branch of a pink magnolia tree. The background is a soft-focus view of many more pink magnolia flowers and branches, creating a spring-like atmosphere.

FRESH PRINT

These hot new books for spring promise to bring drama, interest and excitement to the bookstore, renewing customer enthusiasm and reinvigorating sales.

By Joy Ferguson

As the recession subsides and the gradual lengthening of nights wanes, we look forward to all that is fresh and bright in the spring. Let's shine a little light on some of this season's impressive, new titles—and the profits these will bring to booksellers.

FICTION

Literary

History offers a colourful, exotic and often poignant backdrop to many of this spring's fiction titles: We sail the ancient Mediterranean in *The Lost Books of the Odyssey* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), Zachary Mason's reimagining of Homer's classic to which he adds fragments that reflect our modern concerns. In 1909, a Parisian widow disappears while searching the jungles of French-occupied Indochina for the fabled spring of immortality. Her son's search for her brings him to the intersection of myth, history and truth in *In the Fabled East* (Douglas & McIntyre) by Adam Lewis Schroeder. James Sturm's much-anticipated new graphic novel, *Market Day* (Drawn & Quarterly/Raincoast Books), reflects on how economic and social forces can affect a single life by telling the tale of an early twentieth-century Jewish rug maker whose hand-woven art cannot compete with the product of the industrial revolution. Tess Fragoulis' *The Goodtime Girl* (Cormorant Books) is the story of Kivelli, a young woman who lost her family, her social position—and her future—in the Great Fire of Smyrna (1922), and finds herself living in a brothel in the Greek city of Piraeus. Award-winning author and University of Toronto Psychology Professor, Keith Oatley, explores how we communicate ideas and emotions in *Therefore Choose* (Goose Lane Editions), a novel set in Hitler's Germany and wherein love and lust lead to life-altering choices.

Societal issues drive the characters in this spring's contemporary fiction. In award-winning author Jeffrey Moore's new novel, *The Extinction Club* (Penguin Group Canada), Nile Nightingale's investigation into wildlife plundering is interrupted when he examines a burlap sack, only to find the bloodied but breathing body of a teenage girl. Animal preservation also features in Yann Martel's newest work, *Beatrice & Virgil* (Knopf Canada), where the story centres around an eccentric taxidermist. Faye Pearson, a 42" tall entomologist, stands up to BC loggers and Canadian Mounted Police in *Falling from Grace* (Brindle & Glass), Ann Eriksson's poignant and heart-warming novel of no small achievement. And Ian McEwan uses humour to

explore global crises through one man's ambitions in *Solar* (Knopf Canada).

How family relationships add richness to our lives—whether through joy or sorrow—drives many spring selections. *Sweetness from Ashes* (Brindle & Glass) by Marlyn Horsdal is a vibrant novel that begins to evolve when a death brings generations together and allows family stories to emerge. In *Pulse* (Key Porter Books) by Lydia Kwa, when Natalie is notified that her former lover's son has died under mysterious circumstances, she returns to Singapore only to become entwined in complicated family relationships that ultimately explain the death. *Dream House* (HarperCollins Canada) is Valerie Laken's debut novel. When Kate and Stuart buy a historic house hoping to renovate it—and their troubled marriage—the home's past threatens to demolish their future. *Isobel and Emile* (Coach House Books) by Alan Reed is the story of two lovers, separated and struggling, told in a unique, minimalist voice. And in Miguel Syjuco's award-winning debut novel, *Illustrado* (Penguin Group Canada)—which will be published in over 16 countries—an author's murder leads his student to scour his mentor's poetry, novels and memoirs. The literary fragments become patterns that weave a family saga, which twists and twines against the backdrop of Third World society.

Mystery

New detective mysteries and fresh authors plot tales of murder and mayhem in this spring's selections. *Follow Me Down: An Onnell Brennan Mystery* (ECW Press) by Marc Strange is the first book of this new, fast-paced trilogy in which readers are introduced to Brennan, a small town chief of police who is investigating a suspicious hunting accident. *Deadly Dues* (TouchWood Editions) by Linda Kupecek is the first book in The Lulu Malone Mysteries, wherein Lulu, an out-of-work television star, presents meditations on life in between kidnappings and killings. J&G Dryansky's first thriller, *Satan Lake* (McArthur & Co), begins in 1984 with a killer stalking lovers. Nicholas Ruddock's new mystery, *The Parabolist* (Doubleday Canada), is part mystery, part comedy and filled with sex and murder on the streets of Toronto in 1975.

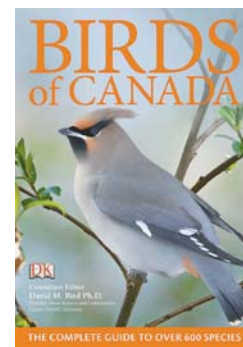
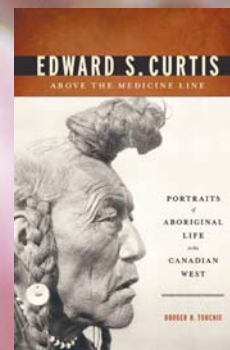
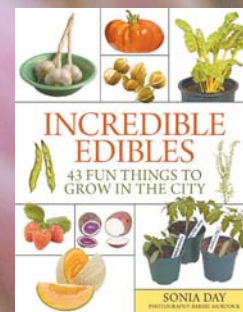
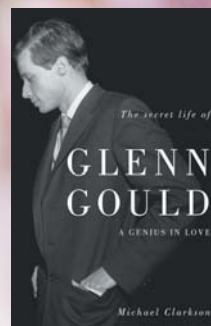
Science Fiction & Horror

Buzz about *The Passage* (Doubleday Canada) by Justin Cronin, aka Jordon Ainsley, continues as Ridley Scott steps up to direct the film version of the first book in this new vampire trilogy. Described as

The Andromeda Strain meets *The Stand*, here vampires are created, not from bat bites, but from failed secret government experimentation. And if that doesn't keep you up nights, *Desperate Souls* (Medallion Press) by Gregory Lamberson will terrify with a tale of soulless zombie-like creatures created by a deadly new drug and voodoo black magic. But, never fear, Kevin Jackson comes to the rescue with *Bite* (House of Anansi Press), a know-thy-enemy book filled with essays, anecdotes and lore, *Bite* follows the undead's progress through the ages—up to the present—including a guide to vampire tourism!

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

The past is lost forever if not preserved. And that preservation in memoirs and biographies can bind us through laughter and tears, offer insights, and expose social injustice. From British Columbia to Newfoundland, three generations of Canadians share their humorous and heartbreaking stories of growing up in rural communities in *Country Roads: Memoirs from Rural Canada* (Nimbus Publishing) edited by Pam Chamberlain. Conni Massing's memoir, *Roadtripping: On the Move with the Buffalo Gals* (Brindle & Glass), is the story of the fun, rollicking rides the group took through Alberta. Michael Clarkson offers a revisionist take on Glenn Gould—often described as asexual, lonely and egocentric—by revealing his love interests and intimate relationships in *The Secret Life of Glenn Gould: A Genius in Love* (ECW Press). In *Go to School, You're a Little Black Boy: The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander: A Memoir* (Dundurn), Lincoln Alexander with Herb Shoveller plot the remarkable series of events that shaped this influential leader to become Canada's first black member of Parliament, Ontario's lieutenant-governor, and chancellor of one of Canada's leading universities. The authorized graphic biography, *Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), by author Sid Jacobson and illustrator Ernie Colón, draws on unique historical sites, archives, expertise and the resources of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam to create an intimate and revealing portrait of Anne's life and times. And for Kevin Bloom questions about social change in South Africa took on a sickeningly personal urgency when his cousin was killed in a vicious random attack. *Ways of Staying* (House of Anansi) is an eloquent account of how the white community is coping with black majority rule, and in particular, how one family is



coping in the aftermath of their own private tragedy. *Ways of Staying* will be published in June to coincide with FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

HEALTH

Health topics cover a wide range from the wonder of pregnancy to coping with illness and surgeries. *Pregnancy Day by Day Canadian Edition* (DK/Tourmaline) edited by Dr. Elaine Herer, an award-winning obstetrician/gynecologist, is a comprehensive daily visual guide with detailed information, over 1000 images and covering Canadian rights and benefits for new parents. *The Gourmet Pregnancy* (Wiley) by Leah Douglas is a fun, stress-free and entirely healthy approach to meal preparation for expectant moms. Each mouth-watering

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dish has been reviewed by a woman's health specialist and features ingredients that are rich in the vitamins and nutrients a growing baby needs. And, moving from good health to illness, Dr. Paul Whang un.masks his fellow practitioners and draws back the operating room curtain to reveal *Operating Room Confidential: What Really Goes On When You Go Under* (ECW Press).

SELF HELP

Self-help authors are guiding us towards bliss and harmony in all aspects of our lives this season. *The Happiness Project: Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle and Generally Have More Fun* (HarperCollins) is Gretchen Rubin's engaging and inspiring account of her 12-month adventure in learning to embrace the pleasures in life. Srikumar Rao, Ph.D. offers insights and practical exercises designed to promote personal growth and career success in *Happiness at Work: Be Resilient, Motivated, and Successful—No Matter What* (McGraw-Hill). Wally Goddard and James Marshall teach us to tend to our relationships by providing good advice and practical steps to nurture *The Marriage Garden: Cultivating Your Long-Term Relationship So it Will Grow and Flourish* (Wiley). And Lyndsay Green suggests that rather than fear old age, we embrace the years remaining and strive for a long, happy life in *You Could Live a Long Time: Are You Ready?* (Thomas Allen Publishers), which includes resources to help us implement her specific advice.

SOCIETY

And if we care to help others instead of helping ourselves, many spring titles encourage us to reach out. For example, Nicole Bouchard Boles' *How to be an Everyday Philanthropist* (Thomas Allen & Son) suggests 289 concrete, direct, and inexpensive ways to make a difference in the community. Instead of writing a cheque for charity, Lawrence Scanlan selected 12 charitable organizations then spent a month in each, and now shares his revealing account of *A Year of Living Generously: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Philanthropy* (Douglas & McIntyre).

BUSINESS

This season's business titles often focus on success stories whether the best product, the most effective leadership or a grand vision. *BlackBerry: The Inside Story of Research in*

Motion (Key Porter Books) is National Book Award winner Rod McQueen's account of how Research in Motion (RIM)—launched in 1984 with a \$15,000 parental loan and a matching loan from the Ontario government—has grown into one of the largest and most profitable companies in the world. Rebecca Shambaugh shares the *Leadership Secrets of Hillary Clinton* (McGraw-Hill) and how her innovative approach is what is required in today's business environment. And Nicole LaPorte reveals the inside story of Hollywood's triumvirate, Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg, whose empire cost the studio—and investors—billions in *The Men Who Would Be King: An Almost Epic Tale of Moguls, Movies and a Company Called DreamWorks* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Thomas Allen Publishers).

FOOD & DRINK

Seasonal favourites on the spring book menu serve up recipes ranging from elegant hors d'oeuvres to a bevy of beverages to delightfully decadent desserts. *Flavours of Cooper's Cove Guesthouse* (TouchWood Editions) by Chef Angelo Proserpi-Porta—an Oprah Winfrey guest and a Chef whose 5-star dinners in her Vancouver Island restaurant are renowned—is a feast for the eyes as well as the palate with over 200 recipes and accompanying photos. Simon Diford offers *Cocktails Made Easy: 500 Drinks, 14 Key Ingredients* (FireflyBooks). If you prefer a fine wine, James Nevison and Kenji Hodgson are again pouring out their unpretentious and irreverent reviews in *Had a Glass 2010: Top 100 Wines for 2010 Under \$20, \$25 and \$30* (Whitecap Books) now in its fifth year. And if home preparation is your preference, *City Farmer: Adventures in Growing Our Own Food* (Greystone Books) by Lorraine Johnson offers practical advice. While Sonia Day's *Incredible Edibles: 43 Fun Things to Grow in the City* (Firefly Books) includes 75 colour photos, practical tips and down-home recipes.

HISTORY

Many of this season's history titles bring the past to life with vivid and poignant photography: *Nelson Mandela: A Life in Photographs* (Sterling/Canadian Manda), created by best-selling author David Elliot Cohen and with text by John D. Battersby, is a celebration of freedom and the man who began fighting for it 20 years ago. Rodger D. Touchie's new book, *Edward S. Curtis: Above the Medicine Line: Portraits of Aboriginal Life in the Canadian West* (Heritage House), pres-

ents 100 of Curtis' photographs along with his biography and is a visual reflection of his profound connection to the First Nations ways of life that he first experienced on an expedition to Alaska in 1899. *Canada's Rocky Mountains: A History in Photographs* (Heritage House) by Faye Reineberg Holt celebrates the men and women who conquered peaks and built lives in mountain communities, and presents legends and little-known facts of this area's past. And John Boileau has superbly researched *Halifax and the Royal Canadian Navy* (Nimbus Publishing) and supplemented the text with over 150 historical photos of the sailors, ships, and shore establishments.

NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

The more we appreciate the natural world, the more motivated we will be to protect it.

Goose Lane Editions is guiding readers along scenic trails from the *Hiking Trails of Ottawa* to the *Trails of Halifax Regional Municipality*, both by Michael Haynes, and on to wonder at the *Waterfalls of New Brunswick* by Nicholas Guitard. And if you prefer to journey afar, DK presents *Travel And Leisure 100 Greatest Trips 2010* with recommendations for outstanding hotels, restaurants, boutiques, galleries, museums, tour operators, and with more than 350 colour images.

And for today's bookseller, global warming and going green are hot topics. Chris Goodall—dubbed the 'David Suzuki of Britain'—offers practical solutions for meeting our energy needs while combating climate change in *Ten Technologies to Save the Planet: Energy Options for a Low-Carbon Future* (Greystone Books). Jeff Goodell reviews how scientists are working to minimize the catastrophic impact of global warming in *How to Cool the Planet: Geoengineering and the Audacious Quest to Fix Earth's Climate* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Thomas Allen Publishers). And in *The Ptarmigan's Dilemma: An Exploration into How Life Organizes and Supports Itself* (McClelland & Stewart), wildlife biologists John and Mary Theberge draw on breakthrough research in evolution, genetics, and on their extensive work in the field and lab to discuss the ongoing mechanisms of evolution, and how this is relevant to how we live today and the environment that we are creating.

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