The QUILL

FALL HOURS:
Monday - Saturday: 9:30 AM - 8 PM
Sunday: 11 AM - 5 PM

October 2009
Volume 5, Number 9

The Inkwell Bookstore • 199 Main Street *Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540 • 508-540-0039 • www.inkwellbookstore.com*

From the Pen of the Inkwell's Owners

By MICHELLE LEMAY

This fall the publishing industry is celebrating an exciting schedule of new releases featuring such heavy hitters as John Irving, Jon Krakauer, Michael Connelly, Stuart Woods, Malcolm Gladwell, E.L Doctorow, Anita Shreve, Diana Gabaldon, Nicholas Sparks, Mitch Albom, Robert Parker, Patricia Cornwell, and John Grisham.

The holiday season wouldn't be complete without new titles from James Patterson, John Sandford, Vince Flynn, Dean Koontz, David Baldacci, Sue Grafton, Clive Cussler, and Stephen King. Rest assured that they all have books pending this fall too.

Of course this line-up has us thrilled as we anticipate a busy bookselling season over the next three months. We haven't seen such an impressive collection of "big" books in over ten years. It really is going to be a wonderful fall, especially for avid readers!

Remember that you save an additional 20% on all pre-orders at the Inkwell.

Here is a list of forthcoming books that are on our personal "to read" lists:

September 22
YEAR OF THE FLOOD by Margaret Atwood
September 22
NOCTURNES: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall by Kazuo Ishiguro
September 29
HER FEARFUL SYMMETRY by Audrey Niffenegger
September 29
JULIET, NAKED by Nick Hornby
October 6
HALF BROKE HORSES:True Novel by Jeannette Walls
October 6
MANHOOD FOR AMATEURS by Michael Chabon
October 6
UNSEEN ACADEMICALS by Terry Pratchett
October 20
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR by John Keegan
October 20
LOOK AT THE BIRDIE: by Kurt Vonnegut
October 20
THE MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE by Orhan Pamuk
October 27
LAST NIGHT IN TWISTED RIVER by John Irving
November 3
EATING ANIMALS by Jonathan Safran Foer

Sincerely,
Michelle & Kathleen
Owners of the Inkwell

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Proceeds benefit the preservation of Historic Highfield Hall

The third fall season of the
Inkwell Literary Series at Highfield Hall

WEDNESDAY, OCT 28, 7:00 PM

New York Times Bestselling Author

DENNIS LEHANE

The Given Day

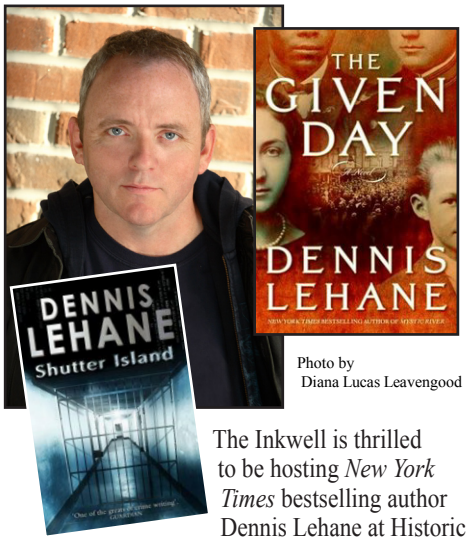


Photo by
Diana Lucas Leavengood

The Inkwell is thrilled to be hosting *New York Times* bestselling author Dennis Lehane at Historic Highfield Hall. Mr. Lehane has earned outstanding critical praise and a legion of fans for his award-winning novels including *Mystic River, Shutter Island*, and *Gone, Baby, Gone.* Lehane's gift for creating character-driven, emotionally powerful novels allows him to explore issues such as lost idealism, the dark recesses of the soul, and human frailty with great clarity and often incomparable scope.

Tickets may be purchased at the Inkwell Bookstore, or over the phone with a credit card at 508-540-0039. Net proceeds benefit the preservation of Highfield Hall. Enjoy complimentary refreshments while listening to live music and viewing recent works of art by local artists preceding the talk.

Now, in the literary publishing event of the year, combined with the cinematic release of the film *Shutter Isalnd* based on Mr. Lehane's book of the same name, Lehane presents his most ambitious and powerful work to date with *The Given Day* released by Harper as a paperback. A spectacular and grand family epic set at the end of the First World War, *The Given Day* unflinchingly captures the political unrest of a nation dangling between a chaotic past and an unpredictable future. Touching on two families—one black, one white—as they are swept up in the maelstrom of history, *The Given Day* transports readers to 1918 Boston, where fiercely held convictions about work and freedom underwent enormous change at great cost to human life and relationships. As Lehane's characters—more richly drawn than any he has ever created—struggle to define themselves and their lives in an increasingly turbulent America, they gradually find family in each other, and together confront the rising storm of a new world order.

The old guard of the force and two of the most corrupt officers in the entire department. determined to protect their own interests, belong to a small yet powerful force of men deeply committed to ridding Boston of the radicals who are threatening to blow up the city; radicals whose intention is to bring a worker's revolution to the U.S.

The Given Day features a number of the most famous and influential figures of the era, including Babe Ruth, Jack Reed, Calvin Coolidge, Eugene O'Neill, and W.E.B. Dubois, *The Given Day* is a remarkable work of historical fiction. Sweeping in scope, it also offers illuminating parallels to today's turbulent political climate. A dramatic, but equally rewarding departure from his previous novels, *The Given Day* is Lehane's masterwork—a boldly imaginative and exquisite opus from one of the truly gifted voices in American literature today.

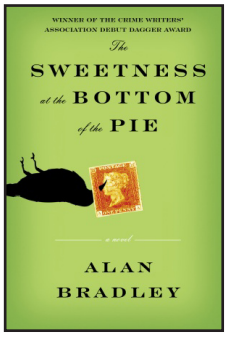
Dennis Lehane is the author of *A Drink Before the War,* which won the Shamus Award for Best First Novel; *Darkness Take My Hand*; *Sacred; Gone Baby Gone; Prayers for Rain,* and the New York Times bestsellers *Mystic River* and *Shutter Island. Mystic River* was a finalist for the PEN/ Winship Award, and won the Anthony Award and the Barry Award for Best Novel, as well as the Massachusetts Book Award in Fiction given by the Massachusetts Center for the Book. *Coronado*, a collection of stories, was published in the fall of 2006. Lehane's work has been translated into 22 languages. He holds an MFA from Florida International University and is the writer-in-residence at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. He lives in Boston.

STAFF REVIEWS

Recommended by MICHELLE

Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie

By Alan Bradley
Delacorte Press, $23.00



When Flavia de Luce knocks *An Elementary Study of Chemistry* to the floor while scaling the bookshelves of her family's library, her life is changed forever by a consuming fascination with chemistry. She spends her days on the top floor of the East Wing of Buckshaw, the ancestral home of the de Luces, in a glorious laboratory that once belonged to her eccentric Uncle Tarquin. Nothing gives her more joy than conducting experiments and studying poisons, much to the dismay of her sisters, Ophelia and Daphne. When her father is implicated in the death of a stranger found in their garden, Flavia resolves to use her scientific skills to exonerate him. There's just one problem…Flavia is eleven years old.
Alan Bradley has crafted one of the most charming sleuths ever. Flavia narrates the story with a voice that is clever, morbid, and hilarious. Opening up *Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* to any page reveals dialog and prose that sparkle vivaciously, just like Flavia!

Excerpt from
Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie:

"I thought a great deal about how I felt and finally came to the conclusion that being Flavia de Luce was like being a sublimate: like the black crystal residue that is left on the cold glass of a test tube by the violet fumes of iodine. At the time, I thought it the perfect description, and nothing has happened over the past two years to change my mind.
As I have said, there is something lacking in the de Luces: some chemical bond, or lack of it, that ties their tongues whenever they are threatened by affection. It is as unlikely that one de Luce would ever tell another that they loved them as it is that one peak in the Himalayas would bend over and whisper sweet nothings to an adjacent crag."

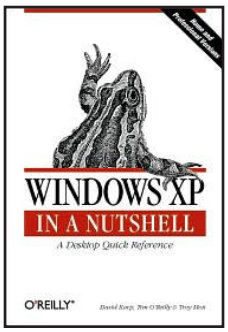
"Nothing on Earth so beautiful as the final haul on Halloween night."
~ Steve Almond author of *Candy Freak*

Recommended by WENDELL

Windows XP in a Nutshell

David A. Karp
O'reilly Media, $44.99

Windows XP has been an "outdated" operating system for a few years now, but many still use it. As a computer geek somewhere between novice and intermediate, I enjoy getting under the hood and tinkering with an operating system's inner workings. XP is ideal for this, in my opinion, because it has been out for a while and thus is well-known. Also, it has a modular way of going about things, which makes for a variety of ways XP can be customized. I admit I'm not yet a user of Linux—it feels like a very different way of thinking—though I hope to try an easier version of it in the near future.



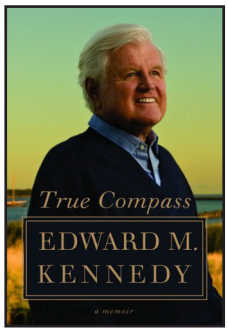
I find it difficult to really get under the hood of Mac's OS, so I haven't used it to a good extent. All this background leads to a good book both for reference and learning new snippets of detail about Windows XP: *Windows XP in a Nutshell*. It has a great balance between beginner and intermediate techniques, which I haven't seen in the other XP books I've looked at. It tells you how to use different programs and features of XP which are not immediately accessible due to Microsoft not wanting the average user to inadvertently change a setting and find their computer no longer boots up. Speaking of booting up, the book shares information about how to speed up your computer's start-up, some of which I knew, and some of which I wouldn't have guessed unless I was told. One easy way to change the performance of XP is to change its appearance; it takes processor power to make its windows and task bar look rounded, with its bright and shadowed edges. By right-clicking on the desktop, clicking on Properties, going to the Appearance tab, and changing the Windows and Buttons menu to Windows Classic Style, you free up your computer to do other tasks.

GO GREEN, REREAD
PURCHASE USED BOOKS
AT THE INKWELL and
SAVE up to 85%

Review by STEPHEN

True Compass: A Memoir

By Senator Edward Moore Kennedy
Twelve Publishing, $35.00



This book does not need a recommendation but rather a review because it is selling quickly off the shelves of bookstores all across Cape Cod. *True Compass: A Memoir* by Edward Kennedy, better known as Ted, has captured his life in an autobiographical 532 page book that is both entertaining and educational.
A few readers have chosen to limit their reading to the juicy parts or the gossip of this memoir, i.e. assassinations, cancer, Chappaquiddick, weddings, etc., and have skipped over the rest. Not me! It is the rest of the material in the book that chronicles his life as the youngest of the Kennedy siblings, and also provides insight about the members of his extraordinary family. It is a fascinating history from the perspective of last surviving child of Rose and Joseph Kennedy.
Despite being hostages to fortune, the emphasis for the Kennedy Clan was strong family ties and a focus on intelligence and spirituality.
History fans will enjoy reading about young Ted's exploits, such as living in London and meeting Queen Elizabeth during the escalation of the Holocaust and receiving his first communion from Pope Pius the XII. At times the pages contain the voices of Ted's parents revealing their great parenting skills. His mistakes are addressed in open admissions and apologies that are stimulated by his parents' voices (his conscience) and his religious upbringing. *True Compass* upholds his legacy as a survivor.

BOOK CLUBS

All meetings are held at the Inkwell. Anyone is welcome to join the conversation about books.

SCIENCE FICTION READING GROUP
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7:00 PM
Counting Heads By David Marusek

CLASSICS BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1:00 PM
The Age of Innocence
By Edith Wharton

NOT THE BESTSELLER BOOKCLUB
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 5:30 PM
Sweeping Up Glass By Carolyn Walls

Assumptions and Reading

By WENDELL EDWARDS

I enjoy conversing with customers about their favorite recent reads. Whenever I fall into conversation with a customer who happens to be a woman, this is no different. However, once in a while when sharing her favorite recent read, this generalized customer may say something along the lines of, "but you probably wouldn't like it." Most don't explain why, so I ask. The answer comes back, "because you're a guy." Granted, this does not happen all that often, but my liberal arts schooling sees it as an interesting phenomenon. My answer is usually, "Well, I like Jane Austen. No, I love Jane Austen."

Being a retail professional, I refrain from going any deeper than that in conversation. In thought, however, I delve into my reserves of sociological thinking gleaned from college. Why would a person assume from my gender I wouldn't enjoy a particular title? Granted, there are larger patterns in our culture that would bring one to assume this, but in my opinion applying it to each individual you meet without asking them first is limiting at best. Something as innocuous as book taste may not make someone feel limited. However, in other realms of an individual's identity, assuming something based on any given person's identity is invariably an example of lazy thinking. Whether or not the assumption is correct is not the issue; it's the act of assuming something about someone which can close one off to learning about the varieties of human experience.

CALLIGRAPHY CLUB

SUNDAYS, 6:00 PM

Re-forming after a summer hiatus, the calligraphy club begins anew. This is a combination workshop and club. All levels of calligraphers are welcome. We encourage you to learn at your own pace, and share your projects and progress. You are welcome to work on your own projects, or you may join our explorations of different hands. We are currently studying copperplate and italic calligraphy. The club meets every other week on Sunday evenings. Please call the Inkwell for more information. Next meetings are October 4th and 18th.

NOTES FROM THE BASEMENT

By KATHLEEN THUT

A special shout-out to Dan Brown and Ted Kennedy this month! Big releases - those much anticipated, and highly marketed books – are both a blessing and curse to booksellers, especially those of an independent nature.

Dan Brown's *Lost Symbol* and Ted Kennedy's *True Compass* released within one day of each other, a highly unusual occurrence in the book world (liken it to construction on one of our bridges not tying up traffic!) Airwaves and print matter were saturated with reviews and countdowns for both books. Even those who don't frequent literary establishments or read voraciously had heard of these two books.

Independent booksellers anticipate selling a few copies, but find predicting exact sales figures difficult. To illustrate my point…at Inkwell *True Compass* has been outselling *Lost Symbol*. This is not the national trend however, Cape Cod's connection to the Kennedy family makes this explainable. "Having legs," is defined as "will sell a copy or two after the release week when it is no longer the shiniest toy on the shelf." Will readers be fickle and move on or should we stock up for the holiday season? Michelle's job, as book buyer, is to rub her crystal ball and place orders accordingly. No bookseller wants to be short or conversely be using extra stock as door stops months later.

Orders for books such as these are placed months before release dates. One of the reasons for this is that we all have to sign an affidavit promising not to display, sell or lend out any copies before the big date. In the case of Harry Potter, we couldn't even cut open the boxes until midnight of the release date – talk about temptation! Fairness among booksellers (online, big box and your local indie) keeps us all honest. Deliveries can take place up to two weeks before release and we are obligated to hold them in our back room. To all of our loyal customers who came in before September 14 and 15th asking about the books, please know that it was very hard to ask you to wait!

Anticipated sales of just these two books have been touted as "saving the publishing industry and bookselling." A rather tall order for 1060 typed pages (combined). No, big releases can't save the world, but they can pay the bills so we are in place to sell those OTHER titles and our favorite function – put books in the hands of those who aren't normally book-toting, word-loving geeks (like us).

Community Clubs & Workshops

LAUGHTER YOGA

MONDAYS, 9:17 - 9:57 AM

Laughter Yoga is facilitated by Clare Goodwin Laughter Yoga is non-political, non-religious, and non-competitive. We laugh for better health, joy and world peace. Attendance is free, and sessions are held Monday mornings in the Inkwell event room. No sessions on holidays that fall on a Monday. Goodwin, a certified Laughter Yoga leader and psychotherapist, explains that, "Laughter Yoga is a physically oriented technique, not a mental practice." Laughter Yoga is a worldwide social movement.

KNIT & CROCHET CLUB

TUESDAYS, 6:00 PM

Beginners and more advanced knitters are all welcome at this friendly and informal gathering of knitters. The Circle meets weekly in the Inkwell Events room. Start making progress on your ongoing projects! Established by the owners of Sage Fine Gifts & Yarn. Encouragement, ideas, tips, and conversation!

DISCLAIMER: The clubs in this section are run independently of the Inkwell Bookstore. The leader of each club contacts their members if any changes are made to the dates and times of the meetings. The Inkwell provides free meeting space for clubs.

SPANISH ROUNDTABLE

THURSDAYS, 4:00 PM

Keep your language skills alive by practicing with this friendly group of people interested in the Spanish language and culture. All skill levels are welcome. The Roundtable meets weekly in the Inkwell Events room.

INDEPENDENT WRITERS' CLUB

SATURDAYS, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Meets on the 2nd & 4th Saturday

SATURDAY, OCT.24 FROM 1-3 PM
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
JAMES W. KERSHNER

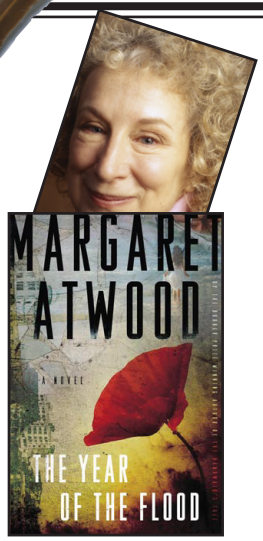
James W. Kershner is the Journalism Professor for the Cape Cod Community College and author of *The Elements of News Writing.* The club is open to active writers at every skill level. Madeleine I. Felker, an educator and writer is the founder and leader of the Club. She has thirty years teaching experience in Boston, Cambridge and Cape Cod. For more information and registration, please call 508-540-4839 or email: writersclub@comcast.net

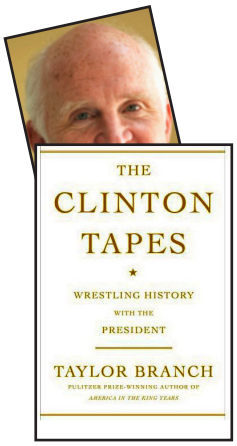
NEW RELEASES

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21

The Year of the Flood

By Margaret Atwood
Knopf Doubleday Publishing, $26.95
The long-awaited new novel from the author of *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Blind Assassin*. *The Year of the Flood* is a dystopic masterpiece and a testament to Atwood's visionary power.





WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29

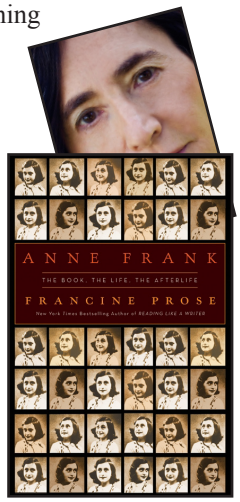
The Clinton Tapes: Wrestling History with the President

By Taylor Branch
Simon & Schuster , $35.00
A sitting president, Bill Clinton, talks intimately over seven years to his long-time friend, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, about what it's like to be president.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29

Anne Frank: The Book, The Life, The Afterlife

By Francine Prose
HarperCollins, $24.99
With the understanding one great writer has for another, Prose deftly parses the artistry, ambition, and enduring influence of the text millions have come to know as "*The Diary of a Young Girl.*"



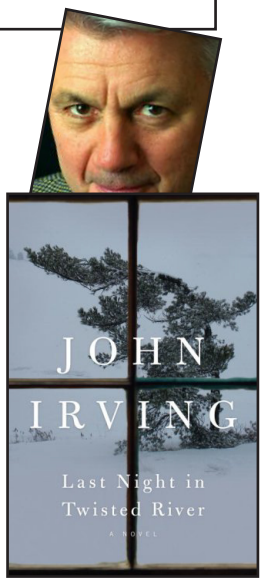
COMING SOON

Great Chefs and their cookbooks.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 27

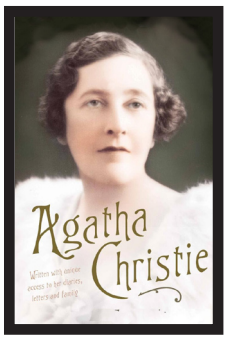
Last Night in Twisted River

by John Irving:
Random House
$28.00
From the emperor of Literary Fiction comes a story spanning five decades, Irving's 12th novel is set in 1954 New Hampshire, where an anxious 12-year-old boy mistakes the local constable's girlfriend for a bear. John Irving's novels include: *The Cider House Rules, The Hotel New Hampshire, A Prayer for Owen Meany* and *The World According to Garp.*



Famous Quotes

"Every murderer is probably somebody's old friend"
— Agatha Christie



Agatha Christie (1890-1976) was born Agatha May Clarissa Miller in Devon, England in 1890, the youngest of three children in a conservative, well-to-do family. Taught at home by a governess and tutors, as a child Agatha Christie never attended school. She became adept at creating games to keep herself occupied at a very young age. A shy child, unable to adequately express her feelings, she first turned to music as a means of expression and, later in life, to writing. In 1914, at the age of 24, she married Archie Christie, a World War I fighter pilot. While he was off at war, she worked as a nurse. It was while working in a hospital during the war that Christie first came up with the idea of writing a detective novel. Although it was completed in a year, it wasn't published until 1920, five years later.

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

SATURDAY, NOV 7, 3:00 PM at The Inkwell
New York Times Bestselling Author BRADFORD MATSEN
Jaques Cousteau: The Sea King

TICKETED EVENT

THURSDAY, NOV 12 at Historic Highfield Hall
COOKING DEMO 6:30 PM and LECTURE 7 PM
with Author and Boston Chef
BECKY SUE EPSTEIN and CHEF ED JACKSON
with special guest Food Columnist Gail Blakely
The American Lighthouse Cookbook:
The Best Recipes and Stories from America's Shorelines

SATURDAY, NOV 14, 4 PM at The Inkwell
with author ELEANOR B. HODGE
Still Boy Crazy at 90