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# Escape Velocity A Charles Portis Miscellany

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**The Ballad of Lucy Whipple (rpkg)** Pulitzer Prize), The Little Friend is a grandly ambitious and utterly riveting novel of childhood, innocence and evil. The setting is Alexandria, Little, Brown  
The second novel by Donna Tartt, bestselling author of The Goldfinch (winner of the 2014

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Mississippi, where one Mother's Day a little boy named Robin Cleve Dufresnes was found hanging from a tree in his parents' yard. Twelve years later Robin's murder is still unsolved and his family remains devastated. So it is that Robin's sister Harriet—unnervingly bright, insufferably determined, and unduly influenced by the fiction of Kipling and Robert Louis Stevenson--sets out to unmask his killer. Aided only by her worshipful friend Hely, Harriet crosses her town's rigid lines of race and caste and burrows deep into her family's history of loss. Filled with hairpin turns of plot

and "a bustling, ridiculous humanity worthy of Dickens" (The New York Times Book Review), *The Little Friend* is a work of myriad enchantments by a writer of prodigious talent. Norwood Abrams Expanded to include the behind-the-scenes story of the 34th America's Cup and Team USA's incredible comeback Down eight-to-one in the 34th America's Cup in September 2013, Oracle Team USA pulled off a comeback for the ages, with eight straight wins against Emirates Team New Zealand. Julian Guthrie's *The Billionaire and the*

Mechanic tells the incredible story of how a car mechanic and one of the world's richest men teamed up to win the world's greatest race. With a lengthy new section on the 34th America's Cup, Guthrie also shows how they did it again. The America's Cup, first awarded in 1851, is the oldest trophy in international sports. In 2000, Larry Ellison, co-founder and billionaire CEO of Oracle Corporation, decided to run for the prize and found an unlikely partner in Norbert Bajurin, a car mechanic and Commodore of the blue-collar Golden Gate Yacht Club.

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After unsuccessful runs for the Cup in 2003 and 2007, they won for the first time in 2010. With unparalleled access to Ellison and his team, Guthrie takes readers inside the building process of these astonishing boats and the lives of the athletes who race them and throws readers into exhilarating races from Australia to Valencia.

*The Ancient History of the Egyptians, Carthaginians, Assyrians ...* Harper Collins

Publisher Description

**True Grit**

Rodale Books  
Tender and satiric, hilarious and humane,

Dogwalker plunks readers down in a land of misfits and the circumstantially strange-where one young man buys drugs from a dealer who locks his customers in a closet, while another lands a cat-faced circus freak for a roommate, and yet another must choose between his pregnant wife and the ten-pound

slug he's convinced will bring him a fortune. And throughout these stories moves a divinely inspired collection of dogs: three-legged, no-legged, dogs that sing, that talk, and that give birth to humans. Brilliant, perplexing, and moving, this is a daring debut that strolls along

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society's  
fringes and  
unearths  
strange  
beauty among  
its misfits  
Escape Velocity  
Abrams  
A collection of  
short stories of  
love set in gritty  
urban  
environments.

True Grit

Vanderbilt  
University  
Press  
Sent on a  
mission to New  
York he gets  
involved in a  
wild journey  
that takes him  
in and out of  
stolen cars,  
freight trains,  
and buses. By  
the time he  
returns home

to Texas,  
Norwood has  
met his true  
love, Rita Lee,  
on a bus;  
befriended the  
second  
shortest midget  
in show  
business and  
“ the world's  
smallest  
perfect fat  
man † ?; and  
helped Joann  
“ the chicken  
with a college  
education, † ?  
realize her true  
potential in life.  
As with all  
Portis ' fiction,  
the tone is  
cool,  
sympathetic,  
and funny.  
Regional  
Oceanography

University of  
Arkansas Press  
This book is  
Portiss most  
famous novel  
and the basis  
for the movie of  
the same name  
starring John  
Wayne. It tells  
the story of  
Mattie Ross, a  
14-year-old girl  
from Arkansas  
in the 1870s,  
who sets out  
one winter to  
avenge the  
murder of her  
father.  
Living Doubt  
Bloomsbury  
Academic  
His wife, Norma,  
has run off with  
her ex-husband,  
taking Ray's  
cards, shotgun  
and car. But from  
the receipts, Ray  
can track where

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they've gone. He takes off after them, as does an irritatingly tenacious bail bondsman, both following the romantic couple's spending as far as Mexico. There Ray meets Dr Reo Symes, the seemingly down-on-his-luck and rather eccentric owner of a beaten up and broken down bus, who needs a ride to Belize. The further they drive, in a car held together by coat-hangers and excesses of oil, the wilder their journey gets. But they're not going to give up easily.

Escape  
Velocity  
Abrams

“ Mr. King looks at all our upcoming problems, and imagines a local reaction to each one. The result is often funny, usually sardonic, and always imaginative, what with all the mole rats, flesh drones, dimeheads, and especially ‘ The Grifter ’ s Guide to the Territories FKA USA, ’ a notable addition to the line of imaginary authorities. ”  
—The Wall Street Journal  
Indie Next Pick

for July Best of June: io9, AV Club, Amazing Stories, The Verge Reed King ’ s amazingly audacious novel is something of a cross between L. Frank Baum ’ s The Wizard of Oz, Douglas Adams ’ s Hitchhiker ’ s Guide to the Galaxy, Cormac McCarthy ’ s The Road, and Ernest Cline ’ s Ready Player One. In Reed King ’ s wildly imaginative and possibly prescient debut, the

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United States into the y depleted and  
has dissolved spotlight he is lawless  
in the wake of tapped by the continent with  
environmental President for a devastating—an  
disasters and sensitive d hilarious—para  
the political llels to our  
catastrophic mission: to own, dodging  
policies of its deliver a body pickers  
final president. talking goat and Elvis-  
It is 2085, and across the worshippers  
Truckee continent. The and logo girls,  
Wallace, a fate of the body subbers,  
factory worker world depends and VR addicts.  
in Crunchtown upon it. The Elvis-willing,  
407 (formerly problem he may even  
Little Rock, is—Truckee ’ s lose his  
Arkansas, not sure it ’ s virginity. FKA  
before the worth it. Joined USA is the epic  
secessions), on the road by novel we ’ ve all  
has no grand an android who been waiting  
ambitions wants to be for about the  
besides maybe, human and a American end  
possibly, losing former convict of times, with  
his virginity lobotomized in its unavoidable  
someday. But Texas, sense of being  
when Truckee Truckee will on the wrong  
is thrust navigate an end of the  
unexpectedly environmental roller coaster

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ride. It is a masterwork of ambition, humor, and satire with the power to make us cry, despair, and laugh out loud all at once. It is a tour de force unlike anything else you will read this year. Living in the Land of Limbo Vintage The lives of the inhabitants of two towns, Truth and Bright Water, separated by a river running between Montana and an Ottawa Indian reservation, intertwine over

the course of a summer as seen through the eyes of two young boys, Tecumseh and his cousin Lum, in a novel about life, love, family secrets, and growing up. Reprint. The Teleportation Accident Abrams "Bravo, Mr. Finch, and keep them coming! More Lenox, please." —Louise Penny, bestselling author of A Better Man From bestselling author Charles Finch comes the third and final in a prequel trilogy

to his lauded Charles Lenox series. London, 1855. A young and eager Charles Lenox faces his toughest case yet: a murder without a single clue. Slumped in a third-class car at Paddington Station is the body of a handsome young gentleman. He has no luggage, empty pockets, and no sign of identification on his person. And putting together the clues to the mystery of the man 's identity only raises more questions, when Lenox discovers that the crime

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has a significant connection to America. As he seeks to solve this impossible case, the young Lenox must confront an equally troublesome problem in his personal life. Kitty Ashbrook, beautiful and cultured, appears to be his soulmate—but love comes with obstacles of its own. In tandem, this fiendish early case and passionate, deeply felt affair will irrevocably shape the brilliant detective and thoughtful gentleman

Lenox is destined to become. Written in Charles Finch ' s unmistakably witty and graceful voice, *The Last Passenger* is a cunning, thrilling, and deeply satisfying conclusion to this trilogy of prequels to his bestselling *Charles Lenox* series. Springer Science & Business Media Winner of the Carnegie Medal for Excellence Finalist for the Young Lions Fiction Award A Chinese American assassin sets out to rescue his

kidnapped wife and exact revenge on her abductors in this New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice: a twist on the classic western from "an astonishing new voice" (Jonathan Lethem). Orphaned young, Ming Tsu, the son of Chinese immigrants, is raised by the notorious leader of a California crime syndicate, who trains him to be his deadly enforcer. But when Ming falls in love with Ada, the daughter of a powerful railroad magnate, and the two elope, he seizes the opportunity to escape to a different life.



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Soon after, in a violent raid, the tycoon's henchmen kidnap Ada and conscript Ming into service for the Central Pacific Railroad. Battered, heartbroken, and yet defiant, Ming partners with a blind clairvoyant known only as the prophet. Together the two set out to rescue his wife and to exact revenge on the men who destroyed Ming, aided by a troupe of magic-show performers, some with supernatural powers, whom they meet on the journey. Ming blazes his way across the West, settling old scores with a single-minded devotion that culminates in an explosive and unexpected finale. Written with the violent ardor of Cormac McCarthy and the otherworldly inventiveness of Ted Chiang, *The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu* is at once a thriller, a romance, and a story of one man's quest for redemption in the face of a distinctly American brutality. "In Tom Lin's novel, the atmosphere of Cormac McCarthy's *West*, or that of the Coen Brothers' *True Grit*, gives way to the phantasmagorical shades of Ray Bradbury, Charles Finney's *The Circus of Dr. Lao*, and Katherine Dunn's *Geek Love*. Yet *The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu* has a velocity and perspective all its own, and is a fierce new version of the *Westward Dream*." —Jonathan Lethem, author of *Motherless Brooklyn*

*Escape Velocity*  
 Springer Science & Business Media  
 A RADIO 4 BOOK OF THE WEEK  
 'An affectionate and revealing account ... Funny, sad, real, rueful.'  
*The Times*  
 'Warm, rambling and self-aware'  
*Guardian* The long-awaited, rambling, tender, and very funny memoir from Adam Buxton

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Chronicles of the Sch ö nberg-Cotta Family  
Kensington Publishing Corp.  
A guide for teenagers on ways of dealing with problems, involving self-esteem, parents, friendship, hygiene, sexuality, love, and school.  
Tennis and the Meaning of Life  
Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

The True Story Behind True Grit  
Immortalized in the classic novel and films, the real "Rooster" Cogburn was as bold, brash, and bigger-than-life as the American West itself. Now, in this page-turning account, Cogburn's great-

great-grandson reveals the truth behind the fiction--and the man behind the myth. . . He was born in 1866 in Fancy Hill, Arkansas, the descendant of pioneers and moonshiners. Six foot three, dark eyed, and a dead shot with a rifle, Franklin "Rooster" Cogburn was as hard as the rocky mountain ground his family settled. The only authority the Cogburn clan recognized was God and a gun. And though he never packed a badge, Rooster meted out his own brand of justice--taking on a posse of U.S. deputy marshals

in a blazing showdown of gunfire and blood. Now a wanted man, with a \$500 reward on his head, Rooster would ultimately have to defend himself before a hanging judge. Proud, stubborn, fearless, and ornery to the bitter end. A fascinating portrait of a true American icon, Rooster shows us the making of a legend--fashioned by Arkansas newspaperman Charles Portis with bits and pieces of historical figures, including Deputy Reuben M. Fry, one-eyed Deputy Marshal Cal Whitson, Joseph Peppers (Lucky

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<p>Ned), Joseph Spurling (Mattie Ross's grandfather) and bank robber Frank Chaney (scar-faced Tom Chaney.) Behind it all stood a man named "Rooster," with two good eyes and a tale all his own. With never-before-seen photos Some folks are just born to tell tall tales. Brett Cogburn was reared in Texas and the mountains of Southeastern Oklahoma. He was fortunate enough for many years to make his living from the back of a horse, where on cold mornings cowboys still straddled frisky broncs and dragged calves to</p>	<p>the branding fire on the end of a rope from their saddlehorns. Growing up around ranches, livestock auctions, and backwoods hunting camps filled Brett's head with stories, and he never forgot a one. In his own words: "My grandfather taught me to ride a bucking horse, my mother gave me a love of reading, and my father taught me how to hunt my own meat and shoot straight. Cowboys are just as wild as they ever were, and I've been damn lucky to have known more than a few." The West is still teaching him how to write. His first</p>	<p>novel, Panhandle, will be published in November 2012. Brett Cogburn lives in Oklahoma with his family.  <u>Primary</u>  <u>Productivity and Biogeochemical Cycles in the Sea</u> Ohio University Press          Jimmy Burns is an expatriate American living in Mexico who has an uncommonly astute eye for the absurd little details that comprise your average American. For a time, Jimmy spent his days unearthing pre-Colombian artifacts. Now</p>
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he makes a living psychic  
 doing small happenings, and  
 trucking jobs a group of  
 and helping out archaeologists  
 with the who are  
 occasional unearthing  
 missing person s (illegally) Mayan  
 ituation—whatevetombs, his  
 r it takes to simple South-of-  
 remain “ the verythe-Border  
 picture of an existence faces  
 American idler a clear and  
 in Mexico, right present danger.  
 down to the Carry the Rock  
 grass-green Minotaur  
 golfing Books  
 trousers. † ? But Dawn Jewell is  
 when Jimmy ’ s fifteen. She is  
 laid-back restless,  
 lifestyle is curious, and  
 seriously wry. She  
 imposed upon by listens to Black  
 a ninety-pound Flag, speaks  
 stalker called her mind, and  
 Louise, a sudden joins her  
 wave of grandmother ’ s  
 “ hippies † ? (led fight against  
 by a murderous mountaintop  
 ex-con guru) in removal mining  
 search of

almost in spite  
 of herself. “ I  
 write by ear, ”  
 says Robert  
 Gipe, and  
 Dawn ’ s voice  
 is the essence  
 of his debut  
 novel,  
 Trampoline.  
 She lives in  
 eastern  
 Kentucky with  
 her addict  
 mother and her  
 Mamaw, whose  
 stance against  
 the coal  
 companies has  
 earned her the  
 community ’ s  
 ire. Jagged and  
 honest,  
 Trampoline is a  
 powerful  
 portrait of a  
 place struggling  
 with the

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economic and social forces that threaten and define it. Inspired by oral tradition and punctuated by Gipe ' s raw and whimsical drawings, it is above all about its heroine, Dawn, as she decides whether to save a mountain or save herself; be ruled by love or ruled by anger; remain in the land of her birth or run for her life. Tsukiji Crown	major film"--Cover. <u>The Charleston Vampire</u> Puffin Books For those who care about literature or simply love a good laugh (or both), Charles Portis has long been one of America ' s most admired novelists. His 1968 novel True Grit is fixed in the contemporary canon, and four more have been hailed as comic masterpieces. Now, for the first time, his other writings—	journalism, travel stories, short fiction, memoir, and even a play—have been brought together in Escape Velocity: A Charles Portis Miscellany, his first new book in more than twenty years. All the familiar Portis elements are here: picaresque adventures, deadpan humor, an expert eye for detail and keen ear for the spoken word, and encounters with oddball
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characters both onstage in 1996 captures the real and imagined. The collection encompasses the breadth of his fifty-year writing career, from his gripping reportage of the civil rights movement for the New York Herald Tribune to a comic short story about the demise of journalism in the twenty-first century. New to even the most ardent fan is his three-act play, Delray 's New Moon, performed

and published here for the first time. Whether this is your first encounter with the world of Portis or a long-awaited return to it, you ' ll agree with critic Ron Rose nbaum—whose essay appears here alongside tributes by other writers—that Portis “ will come to be regarded as the author of classics on the order of a twentieth-century Mark Twain, a writer who

soul of America. ” Tell Them it was Wonderful Escape Velocity Lamar Jimmerson is the leader of the Gnomon Society, the international fraternal order dedicated to preserving the arcane wisdom of the lost city of Atlantis. Stationed in France in 1917, Jimmerson comes across a little book crammed with Atlantean puzzles, Egyptian riddles, and extended alchemical

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metaphors. It's  
the Codex  
Pappus - the  
sacred Gnomon  
text. Soon he is  
basking in the  
lore of lost  
Atlantis,  
convinced that  
his mission on  
earth is to  
administer to  
and extend the  
ranks of the  
noble  
brotherhood.