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In the summer of 1885, three Frenchmen arrived in London for a few days’ intellectual shopping: a prince, a count, and a commoner with an Italian name. In time, each of these men would achieve a certain level of renown, but who were they then and what was the significance of their sojourn to England? Answering these questions, Julian Barnes unfurls the stories of their lives which play out against the backdrop of the Belle Époque in Paris. Our guide through this world is Samuel Pozzi, the society doctor, free-thinker and man of science with a famously complicated private life who was the subject of one of John Singer Sargent’s greatest portraits. In this vivid tapestry of people (Henry James, Sarah Bernhardt, Oscar Wilde, Proust, James Whistler, among many others), place, and time, we have a fresh portrait of the Belle Époque; an illuminating look at the long-standing exchange of ideas between Britain and France; and a life of a man who lived passionately in the moment but whose ideas and achievements were far ahead of his time. $26.95, hardcover.

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**A Garden Eden: Masterpieces of Botanical Illustration**

As a photo essayist at *Life* magazine in the 1940s and ’50s, W. Eugene Smith established himself as an intimate chronicler of human culture. When Smith died at age 59 in 1978, he left behind eighteen dollars in the bank and 44,000 pounds of archives. His death certificate read “stroke,” but, as was said of the immortal jazzman Charlie Parker, Smith died of “everything,” from drug and alcohol benders to weeklong work sessions with no sleep. In *Gene Smith’s Sink*, Stephenson merges traditional biography with rhythmic digressions to revive Smith’s life and legacy. Traveling across twenty-nine states, Japan, and the Pacific, Stephenson profiles a lively cast of characters, including the playwright Tennessee Williams, to whom Smith likened himself; the avant-garde filmmaker Stan Brakhage, with whom he once shared a Swiss chalet; the artist Mary Frank, who was married to his friend Robert Frank; the jazz pianists Thelonious Monk and Sonny Clark, whose music was taped by Smith in his loft; and a series of obscure caregivers who helped keep Smith on his feet. $15.00, paperback.

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A comprehensive story of coffee from its discovery on a hill in ancient Abyssinia to the advent of Starbucks. Mark Pendergrast (bestselling author of...
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The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power

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Confessions of a Bookseller

Just published, the follow-up to the best-selling Diary of a Bookseller (see below!) and a memoir every bit as warm and welcoming as a visit to your very favorite bookstore. Inside a stone-faced Georgian townhouse on the Wigtown highroad, jammed with more than 100,000 books and one portly shop cat, Shaun Bythell manages the ups and downs of Scotland’s largest used bookshop with a sharp eye and even sharper wit. $25.95, hardcover.

The Diary of a Bookseller

Welsh antiquarian bookstore owner Shaun Bythell’s acerbic yet hilarious day-by-day memoir of book-selling, and especially of the challenging array of customers and sellers with whom he jousts daily, is an oddly compulsive read. This is one of those uniquely entertaining books you’ll want to urge into the hands of all your bibliophile friends. $17.99, paperback.

The Secret Lives of Color

Kassia St. Clair’s bestselling book turns her lifelong obsession with colors and where they come from (Van Gogh’s chrome yellow sunflowers or punk’s fluorescent pink, for example) into a unique study of human civilization. A former assistant books and arts editor at The Economist, her popular columns on color for Elle Decoration sparked this book. $20.00, hardcover.
From colorful 30,000-year-old threads found on the floor of a Georgian cave to the Indian calicoes that sparked the Industrial Revolution, The Golden Thread weaves an illuminating story of human ingenuity. Design journalist Kassia St. Clair guides us through the technological advancements and cultural customs that would redefine human civilization from the fabric that allowed mankind to achieve extraordinary things (traverse the oceans and shatter athletic records) and survive in unlikely places (outer space and the South Pole). She peoples her story with a motley cast of characters, including Xiling, the ancient Chinese empress credited with inventing silk, to Richard the Lionhearted and Bing Crosby. $23.95, hardcover.

Archaeologist and medieval historian Alexander Langlands reaches as far back as the Neolithic period to recover our lost sense of craft, combining deep history with detailed scientific analyses and his own experiences making traditional crafts. Craeft brims with vivid storytelling, rich descriptions of natural landscape, and delightful surprises that will convince us to introduce more craft into our lives. $16.95, paperback.

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This book by noted Egyptologist Toby Wilkinson includes stories of god-kings from great rulers such as Khufu and Ramesses II to less famous monarchs such as Amemhat I and Osorkon; powerful queens such as Tiye, the beautiful Nefertiti, and the infamous Cleopatra; as well as ordinary women who are often overlooked in official accounts: Hemira, a humble priestess from a provincial Delta town, and Naunakht, whose will reveals the trials and tribulations of family life. $16.95, paperback.

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This international bestseller is an encyclopedic A-Z masterpiece, the perfect introduc-
tion to the very core of Western humanism. Author Clive James rescues, or occasionally destroys, the careers of many of the greatest thinkers, humanists, musicians, artists, and philosophers of the twentieth century. Soaring to Montaigne-like heights, Cultural Amnesia is precisely the book to burnish these memories of a Western civilization that James fears is nearly lost. $19.95, paperback.

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Princess Stephanie von Hohenlohe was a Nazi spy. Empress Elisabeth of the Austro-Hungarian Empire slept wearing a mask of raw veal. Princess Olga of Kiev slaughtered her way to sainthood. And Princess Lakshmibai waged war on the battlefield with her toddler strapped to her back. $16.99, paperback.

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Ludwig Wittgenstein once wrote that “philosophy should be written like poetry.” What if, author Jonathan Rée asks, we instead saw the history of philosophy as a haphazard series of unmapped forest paths, a mass of individual stories showing endurance, inventiveness, bewilderment, anxiety, impatience, and good humor? Breaking away from high-altitude narratives, and surveying figures both within and outside the discipline of philosophy, he shows how philosophy finds its way into ordinary lives, enriching and transforming them in unexpected ways. $37.50, hardcover.

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