

Elaine's Picks

Crazy for the Storm

Norman Ollestad \$25.99

How does an 11 year old boy cope when the crash of the small plane carrying him, his father, his father's girlfriend, and the pilot turns a ski vacation into a nightmare? Dealing with intense cold, broken bones, blood and death, young Norman draws on everything he knows to survive. In this compelling memoir, he unveils his life with a father who loved danger and takes him on some wild and inappropriate adventures. This compelling, sensitive tale of survival should become a classic. *Some autographed first editions*

A Trace of Smoke

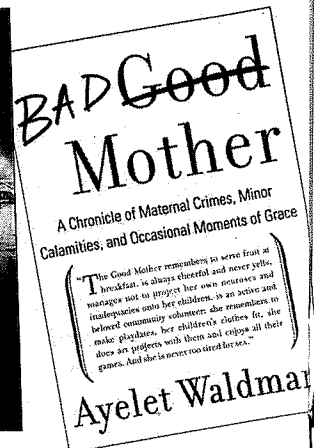
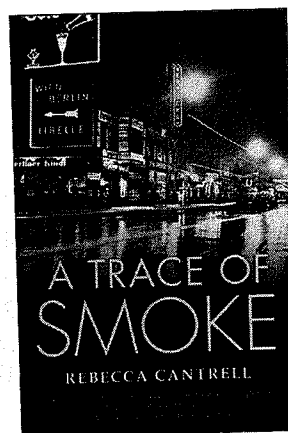
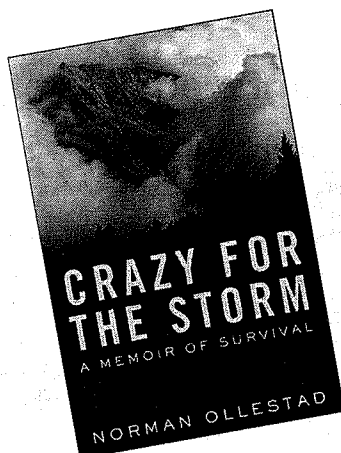
Rebecca Cantrell \$24.95

It's 1931. The Nazis are on the rise and Berlin is full of intrigue, racism, hate, and violence. Hannah, a journalist, learns of her brother's death. As she secretly investigates she becomes immersed in the underground scene, where macho storm troopers and SS officers frequent a nightclub in which cross-dressing boys entertain them both on stage and off. As she follows the thread of her brother's bold, beautiful and dangerous life, she finds murder, injustice and an unlikely romance.

Bad Mother

Ayelet Waldman \$24.95

The subtitle of this gem is: *A Chronicle of Maternal Crimes, Minor Calamities, and Occasional Moments of Grace*. Waldman adores her children, but she's willing to say things that other moms might think but never say. She's brave, wise and able to laugh at herself, as she tells of her determination to raise her children the "right" way—and then we laugh and cry with her as her plans go awry. Mothers and their children will love this honest treasure. *Some autographed first editions*



Angel's Game

Carlos Ruiz Zafón \$26.95

The esteemed author of *Shadow of the Wind* takes us to Barcelona in the 1920's. In an abandoned mansion, David makes his living writing sensational novels under a pseudonym. He is madly in love with the wife of the man who helped him survive his terrible childhood. In a locked room, deep within the house, there are photographs and letters alluding to the bizarre death of the previous owner. Nearly destitute, when a mysterious French publisher offers him a huge sum to write a book, he accepts and his life spins out of control. Zafón blends the magic of books and friendship into a masterful story. *Some autographed first editions*

Shanghai Girls

Lisa See \$25.00

Pearl and May are shocked when their father announces that, in order to pay off his gambling debt, he has to sell them into arranged marriages. Through a mobster, their marriages are arranged to the sons of a wealthy Chinese-American. After the Japanese invade Shanghai, they decide to accept their fate and go to the husbands in California. There are scenes at Angel Island that will haunt you. See, the author of *Peony in Love* and *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, knows how to create complex characters who become part of your life. *Some autographed first editions*

Stone's Fall

Iain Pears \$27.95

The author of *An Instance of the Fingerpost* brings us a mesmerizing novel of espionage, arms dealers and international finance. John Stone was so wealthy, nothing could stop him, until one day in 1909 when he fell to his death from his London home. Pears takes us from early 20th century London to 1890's Paris and to 1867's Venice, immersing us in a growing arms race that led to catastrophe. He paints an unforgettable picture that makes you wonder how different things really are today. *Some autographed first editions*

My Happiness Bears

No Relation to Happiness:

A Poet's Life in the Palestinian Century

Adina Hoffman \$27.50

During the partition of 1948, the family of Palestinian poet, Taha Muhammad Ali, was forced to flee their ancient village. The author, a Jewish Israeli, brings us a thoughtful, albeit sometimes painful, personal exploration of the history and the current situation of the Palestinians. We get to know Ali and his family and how they live in such turbulent times. You may want to read some of Taha Muhammed Ali's work. I suggest *So What: New & Selected Poems 1971-2005*.

About Face

Donna Leon \$24.00

At a dinner party hosted by his rich and powerful inlaws, Commissario Guido Brunetti meets a beautiful, intelligent woman who has undergone way too much plastic surgery. He finds it odd when she comes to him to ask a favor that is somehow entwined with the murder of a trucking company owner who had reluctantly hauled toxic garbage for the mob. Leon spins a marvelous tale. To open this book is to escape to the mysterious, crumbling, gorgeous Venice that tourists rarely see. *Some autographed first editions*

Bank of Marin & Book Passage Partnership for Literacy

The Marin Literacy Program provides Marin County adults with free student-centered instruction in reading, writing and speaking to help them reach their full potential. We are pleased to work with this outstanding program through our Partnership for Literacy with the Bank of Marin. To volunteer or make a donation, please contact 415-458-5042, ext. 2 or dhiggins@marinliteracy.org.

Each month Bank of Marin displays *Elaine's Book Picks*, chosen by Book Passage President Elaine Petrocelli. This display is part of our Partnership for Literacy program. Visit any branch of the bank to learn more about it.

