




The Bubble Reputation
Cathie Pelletier
In the wake of her lover's suicide, Rosemary retreats into herself, then works her way back out into the world of Bixley, Maine Shew-itall; her from her cocoon by her gay uncle Bishop, a 300-pound college sister Miriam, who wears only green; and aizzie, an olde enable roommate. Their antics-and an unexpected co lover left behind. See Rosemary to find a new placele from Cathic Pelletier: Once Upon a Time on the Banks. (fiction) CrownSBN: 0.517-59311-4 $\quad \$ 21.00$


DEARJAMES
Dear lame
Ion Hassler
The wonderiul characters of Staggerford, Minnesota, return in a moving new novel that centers on Stagrerford's moral conscience, Agatha McGee, last seen in $\lambda$ Green lourney, After discovering that her pen pil and soul mate lames is a Catholic priest, Agatha breaks with him and turns to other relationships-then a trip to Italy-to sustain her. Humorous and life-affirming, Dear fantes follows the surprising arc of the couple's lives and relationship. (Fiction) Ballantine ISBN: 0-345-37707-9 \$21.00

## is Nowd Midnight Lemonade

Ann Goethe
Katherine Pierson, raised in an isolated Mississippi River town and educated in a convent school, careens into
adulthood when she marries a man 12 years her senior. Unprepared for marriage, motherhood, and the death of her warm and spirited self, Katherine decides to abandon her existence to grasp for passions never known. Can she face the subsequent choices she must make? Arn Goethe debuts with a resonant voice that is evocative and origina Delacorte
ISBN: 0-385-30807-8
$\$ 21 .{ }^{*}$

## Sacred Country

## Rose Tremain

On a snowy day in England in 1952, six-year-old Mary Ward realizes with perfect clarity that she is really a boy and that her destiny is to be a man. Sacred Country is the story of Mary (who will become Martin) and her pursuit of this elusive identity, as well as the story of those around her: her mother, who periodically checks into the local asylum; her brother, who has his own vision; and a neighbor's son, who is enchanted by country singen. One of England's most erhilarating young writers brings us a novel of beauty, humor, and vision. (Fictions Atheneum ISBN: 0-689-12170-9 S21 012


## ac porcearen Doye

Set in aristocratic 18th-century France, this heady novel is an exquisite blend of authentic memoir and adult fairy tale. Narrated by the irrepressible Berthe Duvet, chambermaid to a French duchess, The Porcelsin Dove sweeps us into a world where a curse hurled centuries before must be redeened by an epic quest. Introducins us to Marie Antoinette and the Marquis de Sade, who already are living in the shadow of the suillotine, Delia Sherman's nond is rematably rich. rasdable and fumy. (Fiction)

## AT ISSUE:

THE WAR OF ART: Interview with John Frohnmayer, author of

Leaving Town Alive: Confessions of an Arts Warrior Brimming with optimism, John Frohnmayer journeyed to Washington, D. C. in 1989 to serve a cause he believed in: the arts in America. Appointed by President Bush as chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Frohnmayer took office in the midst of the uproar over the sexually explicit Mapplethorpe exhibition, and was abruptly fired two and a half years later. Now, a year after his exit from the Endowment after his exit from the Endowment,
Frohnmayer delivers Leaving Town Alive: Frohnmayer delivers Leaving Town Alive:
Confessions of an Arts Warrior-an insider Confessions of an Arts Warrior-an insider front lines of America's culture wars (see ront lines of Americ
description, page 3).

Leaving Town Alive, however, is more a telling chronological record than it is a "tellall." In a phone interview from his D. C. home, Frohnmayer, who admits that it was ook at his 30 -odd months al the Endowment ook at his 30 -odd grees, "Leaving Town Alive is not a now-m-going-lo-gel-you-guys sorl of book. li's ust that there has been so much misinforma tion regarding all this that it was a luxury to be able to write it down the way it happened. That part of it was less cathartic than it was something I was really glad to have the opportunity to do.
Frohnmayer-who decided to remain in Washington to slay close to the eye of the Washington to stay close to the eye of the
arts storm, to speak on the lopic, and to write-offers three reasons to read Leaving write-oflers three reasons to read Leavin Town Alive. "The first is that the book is about the First Amendment and my confrontation with it. The First Amendment is not a comfortable concept for most people because basically it requires us to put aside our natural actions and say to someone who espouses an idea that we may abhor, 'I will will will argue until my last breath to persuade the rest of the world that you are wrong.' That kind of notion seems not to be widely appreciated in today's society. There's so much focus on the hearer-people don't want to be offended-inslead of focus on the speaker. Secondly, a lot of people are reexamining government now, and this is a a very inside view of government. The third reason is that it's the first book out of the Bush administration."

Frohnmayer hopes the Clinton administra-tion-with its focus on the economy-will recognize the economic value of American creativity. "The arts are really part of the solu tion," says Frohnmayer. "The arts feed our most significant industry, which is the export of copyrighted materials-movies, books, recordings. We get a bigger positive balance of trade return on the export of copyrighted materials than any other thing besides jet planes."
Why are so many people afraid of the arts? Frohnmayer believes that one of the reasons is the proclivity of art to kick us out of the comfort zone. "Not all art is challenging, bu some art is made to make us squirm, to force us to confront issues we otherwise may not want to confront. An example of that is the American play Death of a Salesman, which has had tremendous longevity because of its undamental truth about our ability to deceive ourselves as human beings. That's not good news to a lot of people.
"The other reason is-and this appears throughout the book-there are a lot of people who have seen this as a gold-plated issue or other agendas, for raising money or promoting their own fundamentalist causes, whatever. And in that sense the arts are mere ly a playing field. That's nol so bad if the arts get equal time. It is too bad if the arts merely remain the conduit."

Frohnmayer feels that people in the arts community need to do a better job reaching people who are intimidated by the arts-by getling more people into museums, by taking museums outside to people. He feels, too that the ultimate key is early education, "so children aren't locked out of literacy in hearing and seeing and experiencing. It's every bit as cruel to deny them that kind of access is as it is to deny them access to reading."


Arc d'x
Steve Erickson
"Happiness is a dark thing to pursue
, and the pursuit itself is a dark thing as well." These are the words of Steve Erickson's Thomas Jefferson, the guiding spirit of Arc d'x. Jefferson's love for slave Sally Hemmings embodies the emblematic dilemma that is America's destiny-the tension between denying dictates of the heart and secret pursuit of the heart's expression. An impassioned elegy for the American era, Arc d'x is an intriguing literary bridge to the next millennium. (Fiction) Poseidon
ISBN: 0-671-74296-5
$\$ 20.00$
So Far from God
Ana Castillo
In Ana Castillo's hands, Tome, a small, outwardly sleepy hamlet in New Mexico, is wondrously revealed as a place teeming with life. It's also a place rife with the collisions of past and present, comic and horrific, real and supernatural, and the cultures of the Native American, hispano, and Anglo. In this rich, biting portrait of five Southwestern women, American Book Award winner Castillo combines the instincts of a magician with the spirit of an unrepentant feminist. Also available from Ana Castillo: The Mixquiahuala Letters. (Fiction) W. W. Norton
ISBN: 0-393-03490-9
$\$ 19.95$


1st Novel The Virgin Suicides
Jeffrey Eugenides
"On the morning when the last Lisbon daughter took her turn at suicide-it was Mary this time, and sleeping pills, like Therese-the two paramedics arrived at the house knowing exactly where the knife drawer was, and the gas oven, and the beam in the basement from which it was ; ossible to tie a rope." So begins Jeffrey Eugenides' beautiful and sad first novel, a tale of love, terror, memory, imagination, sex, and suicide. (Fiction) Farrar, Straus, \& Giroux ISBN: 0-374-28438-5
$\$ 18.00$


Peerless Flats
Esther Freud
Sixteen-year-old Lisa, her mother, and her half brother are homeless and placed temporarily in Peerless Flats, along with others in similar straits. Her mother thinks Lisa's exstepfather was too hard on her, and gives her daughter carte blanche. Dutifully, Lisa tries coke and heroin, drinks, and sleeps with boys-until she unexpectedly discovers that her future lies in her own hands. The author of the acclaimed Hideous Kinky delivers an unconventional coming-of-age story that resonates with truth. (Fiction) Harcourt Brace ISBN: 0-15-171608-0 \$19.95


Reynolds Price: Collectax Stories Reynolds Price
Widely recognized for the strength of his novels, Reync Price shines through in this definitive collection as one of America's most distinguished writers of short stories. This vol ume presents the works of two earlier collections (The Names and Faces of Heroes and Permanent Errors), combined with many more stories that have never appeared in book form. Fifty in all, these collected stories are a deeply rewarding addition o the Reynolds Price canon. (Short Stories) Atheneum ISBN: 0-689-12147-4 $\$ 25.00$
haiied warmth, insignt, nonesty, and humor she brought to The Elizabeth Stories, her exploration of the painful passage to adolescence. The women of You Never Know might very well be Elizabeth grown-up-women who rebel against their mother's plans only to discover they've fulfilled them, women experiencing the first crush of love, and women trapped in the complicated dance of fidelity and passion. Huggan's new book is sure to cement her literary reputation. (Short Stories) Viking SBN: 0-670-83869-1 $\$ 20.00$

## Continued from page 4)

and it's just proliferating. [pause] You know we just had our little terrorist week here in New York, and all I think of was thank God it wasn't nuclear. I mean it would be ver easy for it to be nuclear. You don't need much material-about a shoebox full of plutonium-to erase New York forever.
Will the desert ever come back to a natural state?
11 will, in 250,000 years. Plutonium is finally not toxic after 250,000 years. It's beyond human comprehension exactly how badly we've damaged ourselves. That's part of what's in the book. The reason to read the book is to get angry enough to do something, to say, "Oh, please would you stop the bull and get on with the nuclear waste problem and stop nuclear testing." It's a book to make people angry and active.
The book states that there were animals and humans in cages on the nuclear testing sites. Who were these people-were they criminals?

It's thought that they were criminals. If you look through the interviews for the one with a man named Robert Carter - he was an atomic veteran-it goes into that a little bit. But there are a number of atomic veterans who say they saw people attached to chain link aluminum fences by handcuffis just wearing overalls or jeans. One assumes they were prisoners because they were doing a lot of nuclear experimentation at that time with prisoners, especially black prisoners, of course-you know black people are always expendable in this culture. And it was not just at the test site. They were doing it in hospitals. They were injecting people with plutonium and radium, just as an experiment.
Also, at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, they were injecting dogs with plutonium-the Beagle Project. So there was a lot of experimentation going on and this book is about, as Keith Schneider lof the New York Timesl writes in the foreword, "the most prodigiously reckless program of scientific experimentation in United States
nstory
Why are we doing this to ourselves?
Money. It has nothing to do with us, it has to do with major corporations. It's what Eisenhower, who was a military man, called the military/industrial complex, GE is part of it, you know, "We bring good things to life"? Well, they bring nuclear power plants to life, So does Westinghouse. Major insurance companies are part of the nuclear complex They are incredibly wealthy, Banks have something to do with it. They have wealth and power to do what they will. Also, we are fighting the government, which is our own money.

So it's a big war to fight. I think it might get better; I think there has been enormously increased consciousness during the ten years that I was working on this. Nuclear lesting has to be stopped. They've been trying to negotiate a comprehensive test ban. The United States and Great Britain are the only countries in the U.N. who say no to CWe lat Creat Britain's nuclear bombs at Guf lem she. ©hey want to continue lesting.

## the most spurious reasons for

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you have to proted yourseli from. You have to think of it as something that's going to eat your children alive, because the nuclear waste problem at this point is probably the most serious thing we face

Is there a place for nuclear technology?
I think that there is a place for it in medicine, I think the way they use radiation to reduce or cure brain tumors at this point is approaching something miraculous. I think there is a place for it-I'm not totally anti-nuclear-but I do have extreme reservations about nuclear power, because of the human factor, I mean, once you put the human factor in, nuclear becomes dangerous. Because we're fallible. We're also greedy. And we're lazy. And we lie,

- Carole Gallagher was interviewed by tree
lance writer Suzanne Schwalb.


