

**GLBA Trade Show – What's the Buzz Adult Titles**  
**Suzanne DeGaetano, Mac's Backs – Books on Coventry**

***Waiter Rant: Thanks for the Tip - Confessions of a Cynical Waiter***

by The Waiter (Steve Dublanica)  
978-0-06-125668-4 Ecco 24.95

This book is a vastly entertaining look at the restaurant industry from a waiter who has been blogging about it since 2004.

*Waiter Rant* is filled with amusing stories about customers, wait staff, cooks and restaurant owners. It covers a lot of territory, including the issue of immigrant employees, customer types (the verbal tipper who lavishes praise but not an adequate tip) and the author advising a co-worker not to spend 300.00 on a bottle of vodka to share with her friends after work. *Waiter Rant* will appeal to anyone who is in the food service industry or who has been in the food service industry: just about all of us.

***The Flying Troutmans*** by Miriam Toews

978-1-58243-439-1 Counterpoint 24.00

Miriam Toews last novel, *A Complicated Kindness*, was the Canada Reads choice in 2006. Canada Reads is an American Idol type book contest in which commentators champion books and the substantive debates are aired on radio and television. Our store hand-sold lots of copies of *A Complicated Kindness* and now we are looking forward to doing the same for this book.

*The Flying Troutmans* is about an aunt who comes back from Europe to care for her niece and nephew while her sister deals with emotional issues. As things get out of hand, Aunt Hattie decides to take the kids on a road trip across the United States to look for their father, last known to be running an art gallery in South Dakota. Madcap and tender, this book is recommended by Cheryl McKeon (Third Place Books, WA) on October's Indie Next List.

***Handmade Nation: The Rise of DIY, Art, Craft, and Design*** by Faythe Levine and Cortney Heimerl

978-1-56898-787-3 Princeton Architectural Press 24.95

It seems like every season Princeton Architectural Press publishes at least one title will become a favorite at our store. This year I am taken with *Handmade Nation*, an illustrated compendium with essays featuring the work of 24 makers of non-traditional art and crafts. There are 225 color illustrations in this beautifully designed book.

There is a huge DIY movement sweeping the country and we sell lots of copies of *ReadyMade Magazine* and soon *Make Magazine* to customers who are committed to this ethic. I think there is a big market for this type of book, especially during the gift giving season.

***Laughing Without an Accent*** and ***Funny in Farsi*** by Firoozeh Dumas

978-0-345-49956-1 Villard 22.00 and 978-0-812968-378-9 14.00 Random House Trade

Our staff first became acquainted with Firoozeh Dumas when we saw the movie *Paperback Dreams* shown when GLBA came to Cleveland to talk about IndieBound. Firoozeh Dumas is interviewed in the documentary talking about her fondness for independent bookstores and how they have boosted her work.

So we read her two titles and can't stop recommending them to everyone who comes in our store. Both books are very funny essay collections---well written, humorous (sometimes side-splittingly so) and hugely entertaining. Firoozeh Dumas was born in Iran and spent some of her childhood there but is essentially a product of Southern California where she was raised when her engineer father got a job here. She writes a lot about Iranian culture, though, and I have learned much about Iran from reading her work. It is very easy to handsell the *Funny in Farsi* because it is in paperback---then customers come back and want to read more. In the last paragraph of the acknowledgments to *Laughing Without an Accent* she writes: "And finally, to you the reader, who still loves a good story, I thank you. If you bought this book at an independent bookstore I thank you twice."

***Slackonomics: Generation X in the Age of Creative Destruction*** by Lisa Chamberlain

978-0-7867-1884-9 Da Capo 25.00

*Slackonomics* is a cogent, illuminating and even entertaining look at how the flailing economy is affecting Generation Xers. Lisa Chamberlain is a contributor to the *New York Times* and is the Executive Director of the Forum for Urban Design in NYC. She uses interviews and oral histories with contemporaries to get at the big issues of her generation.

Jacket copy reads: "One part *Freakonomics*, one part *Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs*, Chamberlain's debut is a deft blend of pop culture, personal narrative and economic analysis that mines the connections between Douglas Coupland and Melrose Place, the dot.com insanity and the riott grrrl scene, Donnie Darko and the current housing crisis, present day graffitti artists and an early 20th century Austrian economist."

***Star Trek and Philosophy: The Wrath of Kant*** edited by Jason T. Eberl and Kevin S. Decker.

978-0-81269649-3 Open Court Publishing 18.95

I am a huge fan of the **Popular Culture and Philosophy** series published by Open Court. So far there are 35 volumes in the series ---it began with *Seinfeld and Philosophy* and others are *Baseball and Philosophy*, *Bob Dylan and Philosophy*, *Harley-Davidson and Philosophy*, *South Park and Philosophy*, etc. You can check the complete listing on the Open Court website, which states: "The volumes present essays by academic philosophers exploring the meanings, concepts, and puzzles within television shows, movies, music and other icons of popular culture" The latest entry, ***Star Trek and Philosophy***, is sure to be one of the most popular yet published, with 21 essays to stimulate the Trekkie mind. Live long and prosper.

***All the Sad Young Literary Men*** by Keith Gessen

978-0-670-018550 Viking 24.95

The National Book Foundation just selected this book to be honored in it's "5 Under 35" celebration spotlighting the next best writers. It was chosen by Jonathan Franzen.

This is a great book to recommend not just to young literary men but any reader who appreciates a terrific male coming of age story that includes heartbreak and hockey.

Andrew O'Hagan, writing for the *New York Times Book Review* observed: "the ambition of young literary Americans is a kind of trench warfare, and Gessen, an editor of the magazine *n+1*, proves himself not only a capable observer but a natural novelist with a warm gun."

**Gessen** was born in Russia. In 2004 he co-founded the influential magazine *n+1*, a twice-yearly print journal of politics, literature, and culture.

Also, just to state the obvious, these books are great impulse purchases at the counter: ***Gallop!*** and ***Swing!***, the scanimation titles published by Workman and ***Artiste***, (by Paul Brewer and Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Boris Kulikov) a true story about a French performer at the Moulin Rouge in the 1890's who filled the joint every time with his windy compositions. And the Big Foot books by Graham Romieu including the latest ***Big Foot I Not Dead*** are totally great and fly off the shelf. We need lots of humor these days!