

Page Turners—October 2022

Visit New Jersey!

Albom, Mitch (*born in Passaic and lived in Oaklyn, N.J.*)

The Stranger in the Lifeboat

What would happen if we called on God for help and God actually appeared? Adrift in a raft after a deadly ship explosion, nine people struggle for survival at sea. Three days pass. Short on water, food and hope, they spot a man floating in the waves. They pull him in. "Thank the Lord we found you," a passenger says. "I am the Lord," the man whispers. So begins Mitch Albom's most beguiling and inspiring novel yet.

Brennert, Alan (*born and raised in Englewood, N.J.*)

Daughter of Moloka'i

This companion tale to *Moloka'i* tells the story of Ruth, the daughter that Rachel Kalama—quarantined for most of her life at the isolated leprosy settlement of Kalaupapa—was forced to give up at birth.

Bronte, Michael

(*born in Verona, Italy, but more importantly is a current resident in Monroe Township, N.J.!*)

The Handyman

Jake Blackwell wasn't always a handyman. During a tour as an Army Ranger and part of the elite 75th Ranger Regiment, Jake suffered a traumatic brain injury. No one wanted him on their payroll after ten years of fighting for his country. For Jake, there was no choice but to go into business for himself. At one of his jobs he stumbled across a package containing what appeared to be blueprints. He discovered that the plans were for a W54 nuclear device. At great risk to his life and that of his entire family, Jake is in a race to stop a major nuclear disaster.

Presidential Risk

When dead presidents in a supernatural world play the board game of world conquest, their moves are carried out in the human world.

Coben, Harlan (*born in Newark and raised in Livingston, and resides in Ridgewood, N.J.*)

Stay Close

Three people living lives they never wanted, hiding secrets that even those closest to them would never suspect, will find that the past doesn't recede. Even as the terrible consequences of long-ago events crash together in the present and threaten to ruin lives.

With his trademark combination of page-turning thrills and unrivaled insight into the dark shadows that creep into even the happiest communities, Harlan Coben delivers a thriller that cements his status as the master of domestic suspense.

Cobert, Stephen (*currently resides in Montclair, N.J.—so he is ours!*)

I am America (and so can you!)

Dictated directly into a microcassette recorder over a three-day weekend, this book contains Stephen's most deeply held knee-jerk beliefs on The American Family, Race, Religion, Sex, Sports, and many more topics, conveniently arranged in chapter form.

Dermansky, Marcy (*born in NYC, currently resides in Montclair, N.J.*)

Very Nice

Rachel Klein never meant to kiss her creative writing professor. Zahid Azzam never planned to become a houseguest in his student's sprawling Connecticut home, but he does. Becca Klein never thought she'd have a love affair so soon after her divorce, but when her daughter's professor walks into her home she does, and the affair is...a very bad idea.

Diaz, Junot (*born in the D.R., raised in Parlin, N.J.— Rutgers graduate*)

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

Things have never been easy for Oscar, a sweet but disastrously overweight, lovesick Dominican ghetto nerd. From his home in New Jersey, where he lives with his old-world mother and rebellious sister, Oscar dreams of becoming the Dominican J. R. R. Tolkien and, most of all, of finding love.

Leon, Donna (*born and raised in Montclair, N.J.—currently lives in Venice—because she can*)

Doctored Evidence

When a miserly spinster is found brutally murdered in her Venice apartment, police immediately suspect her Romanian housekeeper. They are certain their job is done after the immigrant dies while fleeing arrest, but weeks later; a neighbor comes forward to defend the innocence of the accused. The only investigator who believes the alibi is Commissario Guido Brunetti, who will have to go behind the backs of his superiors to vindicate the Romanian and find her employer's actual killer.

Martin, George R.R. (*born and raised in Bayonne, N.J.*)

Tuf Voyaging

Haviland Tuf is an honest space-trader who likes cats. So how is it that, in competition with the worst villains the universe has to offer, he's become the proud owner of the last seedship of Earth's legendary Ecological Engineering Corps?

Perrotta, Tom (*born in Newark and raised in Garwood, N.J.*)

Election

A suburban New Jersey high school teacher confronts a student-body election gone haywire in this darkly comic novel by the author of *The Wishbones*.

Mrs. Fletcher

A coming-of-age novel about the sexual awakening of a middle-aged woman, *Mrs. Fletcher* is a provocative, witty look at contemporary sexual politics and timeless moral dilemmas--a moving and funny examination of sexuality, identity, and the big clarifying mistakes people can make when they're no longer sure who they are and where they belong.

Rosenfelt, David (*he had a "relentlessly normal childhood" in Paterson, N.J.*)

Who Let the Dog Out?

A lawyer by day-and then only when he's forced to take on new cases-Andy Carpenter's true passion is the Tara Foundation, the dog rescue organization he runs with his friend Willie Miller. So it's frightening when Willie calls him to say the alarm has gone off at the foundation building, and there's clearly been a break-in. It turns out that a recently rescued dog, nicknamed Cheyenne since her arrival at the foundation, has been stolen. Andy and Willie track the missing dog to a house in downtown Paterson, New Jersey and sure enough, they find the dog...standing right next to a dead body. The man had been gruesomely murdered mere minutes before Andy and Willie arrived. Could it be a coincidence? Or could the dog theft somehow be connected to the killing?

Rudnick, Paul (*born and raised in Piscataway, N.J.*)

Playing the Palace

When a lonely American event planner starts dating the gay Prince of Wales, a royal uproar ensues: is it true love or the ultimate meme? Find out in this hilarious romantic comedy.

Scott, Kieran (*born and raised in Montvale, N.J. and a Rutgers graduate*)

Wish You Were Gone

Emma Walsh never gets the chance to confront her husband James about his drinking—his alcoholic rages, his blackouts, and the fear his behavior has created for her and their two kids. The last time she sees her husband is his body after a fatal crash. Many of their friends knew and were willing to keep his secrets—secrets that twist into new and unexpected shapes as the mysterious details of his last day of life begin to come to light.

Stewart, Jon (*born in NYC and raised in Lawrenceville, N.J.*)

Earth (The Book)

EARTH (The Book) is the definitive guide to our species. With their trademark wit, irreverence, and intelligence, Stewart and his team will posthumously answer all of life's most hard-hitting questions, completely unburdened by objectivity, journalistic integrity, or even accuracy.

Terrell, Billy (*born and raised in Newark, N.J.*)

The Other Side of Rock and War

The Other Side of Rock and War is Billy Terrell's struggle to save his life, his career, his country and the Vietnamese orphans he left behind.

Watkins, Eileen (*current Monroe Township, N.J. resident*)

Night of the Were-Cat

In the newest installment of Eileen Watkins' *meow-tastic* Cat Groomer Mystery series, expert groomer Cassie McGlone must find a drug-peddling killer at loose in her small New Jersey town before the fur begins to fly!

Books Set in New Jersey

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi

Americanah

Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time.

Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland.

Beanland, Rachel

Florence Adler Swims Forever

Atlantic City, 1934. Every summer, Esther and Joseph Adler rent their house out to vacationers escaping to "America's Playground" and move into the small apartment above their bakery.

Despite the cramped quarters, this is the apartment where they raised their two daughters, Fannie and Florence, and it always feels like home. When tragedy strikes, Esther makes the shocking decision to hide the truth and pulls the family into an elaborate web of secret-keeping and lies, bringing long-buried tensions to the surface that reveal how quickly the act of protecting those we love can turn into betrayal.

Brennert, Alan

Palisades Park

A spellbinding story about a family of dreamers and their lives within the legendary Palisades Amusement Park. Growing up in the 1930s, there is no more magical place than Palisades

Amusement Park in New Jersey—especially for seven-year-old Antoinette, who horrifies her mother by insisting on the unladylike nickname Toni, and her brother, Jack. But a family of dreamers doesn't always share the same dreams, and then the world intrudes: There's the Great Depression, and Pearl Harbor, which hits home in ways that will split the family apart; and perils like fire and race riots in the park. Yet they are all drawn back to each other—and to Palisades Park—until the park closes forever in 1971.

Grodstein, Lauren
Friend of the Family

Pete Dizinoff has spent years working toward a life that would be, by all measures, deemed successful. A skilled internist, he's built a thriving practice in suburban New Jersey. He has a devoted wife, a network of close friends, and an impressive house. And most important, he has a son, Alec, on whom he's pinned all his hopes. Pete has afforded Alec every opportunity, bailed him out of close calls with the law, and even ensured his acceptance into a good college. But Pete never counted on the wild card: Laura, his best friend's daughter - 10 years older than Alec, irresistibly beautiful, with a past so shocking that it's never spoken of. When Laura sets her sights on Alec, Pete sees his plans for his son not just unraveling but being destroyed completely. Believing he has only the best of intentions, he sets out to derail this romance and rescue his son. He could never have foreseen how his whole world would shatter in the process.

Kingsolver, Barbara
Unsheltered

The compulsively readable story of two families, in two centuries, who live at the corner of Sixth and Plum in Vineland, New Jersey, navigating what seems to be the end of the world as they know it. With history as their tantalizing canvas, these characters paint a startlingly relevant portrait of life in precarious times when the foundations of the past have failed to prepare us for the future.

Napolitano, Ann
Dear Edward

One summer morning, twelve-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. Halfway across the country, the plane crashes. Edward is the sole survivor. Edward's story captures the attention of the nation, but he struggles to find a place in a world without his family. But then he makes an unexpected discovery—one that will lead him to the answers of some of life's most profound questions: When you've lost everything, how do you find the strength to put one foot in front of the other? How do you learn to feel safe again? How do you find meaning in your life?

Phillips, Carly
Under the Boardwalk

When Ariana Costas heard her twin sister, Zoe, had disappeared, Ari left Vermont and returned to her Jersey girl roots to find her. Ari didn't know what to expect from her search, but danger around every corner, dodging bullets, and a hunk in a leather jacket saving her was not it. Detective Quinn Donovan thought he located Zoe Costas. Except as it turns out, the gorgeous woman is Zoe's twin Ariana, the college professor. Suddenly, Quinn's job is more about trying to protect Ari who is in trouble deeper than the Atlantic at high tide. There's more at stake than trying to protect her without spilling his well-guarded secrets.

Stewart, Ann
Girl Waits With Gun

Set against the backdrop of the famous Paterson Silk Strike and based on actual events, *Girl Waits with Gun* is the first in a series of novels based on the real life adventures of Constance, Norma, and Fleurette Kopp. Drawing on extensive research into newspaper reports, courthouse files, genealogical archives, and letters, this intriguing story remains true to the historical record.