

*LitChat's*  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Books Are Great Gifts**  
A Campaign to Promote Books Sales and Support Literacy  
Friday, December 9, 2011 • 6 – 11 p.m. ET

Is there a better time than the holiday season to promote reading and support the literary community? LitChat has gathered a group of readers, authors and publishing professionals in a celebration of giving and receiving, all wrapped around the things that tie us together: Books. Among the activities in which you can participate through the month of December is a [Twibbon](#) campaign to draw attention to the giving of books as gifts, a #litchatpicks2011 hashtag to generate a LitChat follower's list of favorite books from 2011 and the Third Annual Books Are Great Gifts (#bagg) auction of signed books for literacy.

The **#BAGG auction** features books donated and signed by authors and will take place through Twitter on December 9, 2011, beginning at 4 p.m. EST. All proceeds from the Twitter auction will go directly to LitChat's adopted charity [Reader to Reader](#).

[Reader-To-Reader](#) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to expanding literacy and learning opportunities for the nation's most chronically underserved and vulnerable communities, including inner-city schools, Native American reservations, and poor rural towns. Reader to Reader accomplishes this primarily through innovative literacy programs, book and computer donation programs, and the development of partnerships with schools districts that extend the boundaries and capacity of the education system to transform struggling students into joyful and engaged lifelong learners.

Our first #BAGG auction held live through Twitter in 2009 netted more than \$1300 for children's literacy charity [The Reading Tree](#). Last year the #litchat community raised more than \$1400 for [Reader-To-Reader](#). Read about last year's BAGG campaign [here](#). LitChat is a community of readers, writers and publishing professionals who meet for lively book chat three days a week through Twitter.

Founded and moderated by [Carolyn Burns Bass](#) in January 2009, LitChat's first online chat occurred February 2, 2009. Our first author guest host, Eric Barnes, appeared for a #litchat on March 6, 2009. In subsequent months we have given the twit-mic to hundreds authors to promote their books and connect with readers through this extraordinary, quick-paced platform called Twitter. We invite you to help us promote book sales, reading and literacy charity through LitChat's BOOKS ARE GREAT GIFTS campaign throughout the month of December.

## Twitter Auction of Signed Books

### When:

- Friday, December 11, 6-11 p.m. EST

### Where:

- On Twitter, using a hastag assigned to each title. #bagg-

### To Benefit:

- [Reader To Reader](#), a non-profit charity registered through Section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.

### How it Works:

- A list of books to be auctioned is included in this catalog.

- On day of auction @LitChat will open with presentation of the first book.
- All books will open with a bid of \$10.
- Each book auction will run through Twitter until it is sold.
  - If interest in particular title stalls, bidding for that item may close early.
  - If interest in particular title is heavy, bidding for that item may remain open until activity slows.
  - In the unlikely chance that a book does not receive bids, it will be donated to Reader To Reader for placement through their global literacy efforts.
- Winner of each auction will be notified immediately and directed to the Reader To Reader [web donation site](#) to submit donation of winning amount through online CC transaction.
- Receipts of CC transaction will be issued through Reader To Reader. (For tax purposes, fair market value of item is not deductible.)
- All books will be mailed directly to auction winners from the author or publisher of the gift after donation has been cleared.

**For Those Not on Twitter:**

You don't need to be a member of Twitter to participate in the #bagg auction. If you'd like to bid on one of the auctions, but don't have a Twitter account, simply email us at [twitchat@gmail.com](mailto:twitchat@gmail.com) with title of book and your highest bid. We'll assign a proxy to bid for you. If you win the auction, we'll notify you when/where to submit your donation payment.

**Auction Schedule**

Each book auction will run through Twitter for approximately 10 minutes. If interest in particular title is heavy, bidding for that item may remain open until activity slows.

When bidding on a book, please tag with the #BAGG- number listed below.

Time	Item No.	Author	Book Title
6:15 pmET	#bagg-1	Sara J Henry	Learning to Swim
6:30 pmET	#bagg-2	Karen Dionne	Boiling Point
6:45 pmET	#bagg-3	Ellen Meister	The Other Life
7:00 pmET	#bagg-4	Carmela Ciuraru	Nom de Plume
7:15 pmET	#bagg-5	Shirley Jump	Family Christmas in Riverbend

7:30 pmET	#bagg-6	Ernessa T. Carter	32 Candles
7:45 pmET	#bagg-7	Keith Cronin	Me Again
8:00 pmET	#bagg-8	Jael McHenry	The Kitchen Daughter
8:15 pmET	#bagg-9	Tasha Alexander	A Crimson Warning
8:20 pmET	#bagg-9a	Andrew Grant	Die Twice
8:30 pmET	#bagg-10	Timothy Schaffert	The Coffins of Little Hope
8:35 pmET	#bagg-10a	Martha Southgate	The Taste of Salt
8:45 pmET	#bagg-11	Jon Michaud	When Tito Loved Clara
9:00 pmET	#bagg-12	Alma Katsu	The Taker
9:05 pmET	#bagg-12b	Lauren Baratz-Logsted	Little Women & Me
9:15 pmET	#bagg-13	Joseph Wallace	Exclusive 3-Book Mystery Anthology signed by author Joe Wallace
9:30 pmET	#bagg-14	Norton Juster	The Phantom Tollbooth
9:45 pmET	#bagg-16	Elizabeth Letts	The Eighty Dollar Champion
9:50 pmET	#bagg-16a	Adam Mansbach	Go the F**k to Sleep
10:00 pmET	#bagg-17	Susan Orlean	Rin Tin Tin
10:15 pmET	#bagg-18	Luis Alberto Urrea	Two Book Exclusive: HD First Editions of The Hummingbird's Daughter and Queen of America

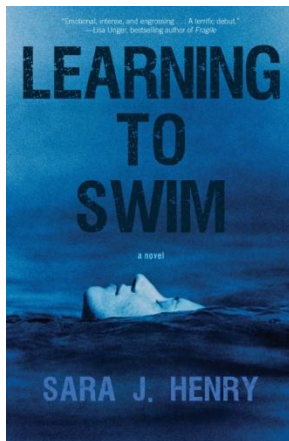
## Auction Winners

Here's what to do if you are the lucky winner of a signed book from one of our generous authors:

1. If you are the winner of an auction item, you'll be notified of where to submit your donation to Reader To Reader. Or you can be proactive and do it right away at: <http://www.crowdrise.com/reader2reader>.

2. When you submit your donation, you must add in the comments box on the form that you participated in the #BAGG auction and include the title of the book you won.
3. We must verify donations, so please forward a copy of your receipt, along with your shipping address to us at the following email address: [twitchat@gmail.com](mailto:twitchat@gmail.com).
4. LitChat will confirm your donation and send your shipping information to the author of the book you won.
5. Authors will sign and ship the books directly to the auction winners.

## Our 2011 BAGG Selections

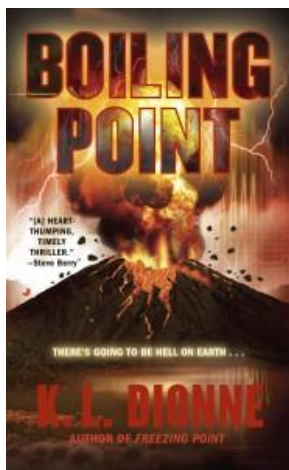


### ***Learning to Swim*** **Sara J Henry**

#bagg-1                      6:15 pmET                      Mystery (Crown)

While standing on the deck of the Lake Champlain ferry bound for Vermont, Troy Chance sees a small boy tossed over the side of a ferry going the opposite direction. Without thinking, she jumps to his rescue, setting off a chain of events that see her embroiled in a kidnapping plot with tendrils in the Adirondacks and Vermont as well as Ottawa and Montreal.

[www.sarajhenry.com](http://www.sarajhenry.com)

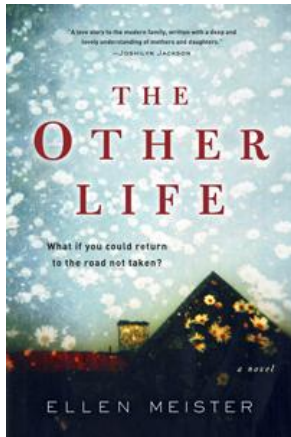


### ***Boiling Point*** **Karen Dionne**

#bagg-2                      6:30 pmET                      Ecothriller (Jove)

As Chaitén sleeps, two microbiologists monitor the effects of global warming in the shadow of the long-dormant volcano. A celebrity scientist and his film crew arrive at the caldera to capture Chaitén's spectacular scenery for a television audience. And a Nobel Prize-winning scientist sits in his

apartment in Paris, monitoring data on fifty-six volcanoes around the world—waiting for the one sign that his diabolical plan is about to be put into motion. Soon, their destinies will converge. For the Earth has become a pawn in the biggest gamble ever played with humanity’s future. And Chaitén is about to blow.  
[www.karen-dionne.com](http://www.karen-dionne.com)



## ***The Other Life***

**Ellen Meister**

#bagg-3

6:45 pmET

Women's Fiction (Putnam)

What if you could return to the road not taken? In *The Other Life* (Putnam), Quinn Braverman is keeping two secrets from her loving husband, Lewis. One is that the real reason she chose him over Eugene, her neurotic, semi-famous ex-boyfriend, was to prove to her mother that she could have a happy, stable relationship with the guy next door. The other is that Quinn knows another life exists in which she made the other choice and stayed with Eugene. The two lives run in parallel lines, like highways on opposite sides of a mountain. There, on the other side, the Quinn who stayed with Eugene is speeding through her high-drama, childless life in Manhattan. Here, the Quinn who married Lewis lives in the suburbs, drives a Volvo, and has an adorable young son with another baby on the way.

[www.ellenmeister.com](http://www.ellenmeister.com)



## ***Nom de Plume***

**Carmela Ciuraru**

#bagg-4

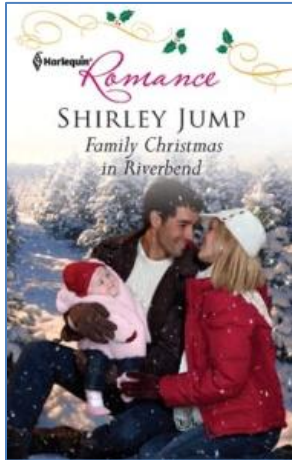
7:00 pmET

Nonfiction (Harper)

What's in a name? In our "look at me" era, privacy now seems a quaint relic. Everyone's a brand. Self-effacement is a thing of the past. Yet as *Nom de Plume* reminds us, it wasn't always like this. Carmela Ciuraru explores the fascinating stories of more than a dozen authorial impostors across centuries and cultures, plumbing the creative process and the darker, often

crippling aspects of fame. Biographies have chronicled the lives of individual pseudonymous authors such as Mark Twain, Isak Dinesen, and George Eliot, but never before have the stories behind many noms de plume been collected into a single volume. These are narratives of secrecy, obsession, modesty, scandal, defiance, and shame.

[www.carmelaciuraru.com](http://www.carmelaciuraru.com)



## ***Family Christmas in Riverbend*** **Shirley Jump**

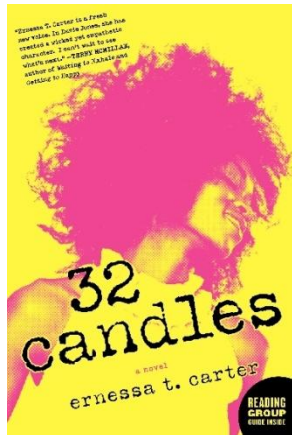
#bagg-5

7:15 pmET

Romance (Harlequin)

How about some romance for the holidays? In *Family Christmas in Riverbend*, Edward left Livia because he knew he couldn't give her the family and marriage she wanted. But when he's forced to return home to snowy, sparkling Riverbend, he discovers Livia has moved there, too—with her tiny baby in tow! Livia had hoped desperately that Edward would remain away until time blurred the memory of his lips on hers. Now, she longs for him, but how can she tell him her precious daughter is not just hers... but theirs?

[www.shirleyjump.com](http://www.shirleyjump.com)



## ***32 Candles*** **Ernessa T. Carter**

#bagg-6

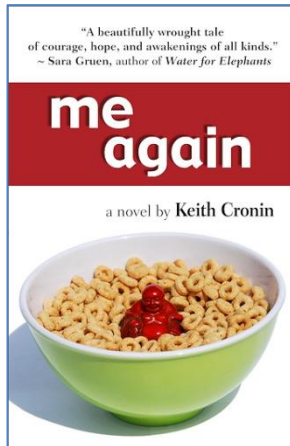
7:30 pmET

Mainstream (Armistad)

Davie Jones—an ugly duckling growing up in small-town Mississippi with a mother who couldn't get any meaner—is positive her life couldn't be any worse. Just when she's resigned herself to her fate, she sees a movie that will change her life—*Sixteen Candles*. But in her case, life doesn't imitate art. Tormented in school and hopelessly in unrequited love with a handsome football player, Davie finds it bittersweet to dream of Molly Ringwald endings. When a cruel school prank goes too far, Davie leaves the life she knows and

reinvents herself in the glittery world of Hollywood—as a beautiful and successful lounge singer. Just as she’s about to ride off into the L.A. sunset, the past comes back with a vengeance, threatening to crush Davie’s dreams—and break her heart again. With wholly original characters and a cinematic storyline, *32 Candles* introduces Ernessa T. Carter, a new voice in fiction with smarts, attitude, and sassiness to spare.

[www.32candles.com](http://www.32candles.com)



## ***Me Again*** **Keith Cronin**

#bagg-7

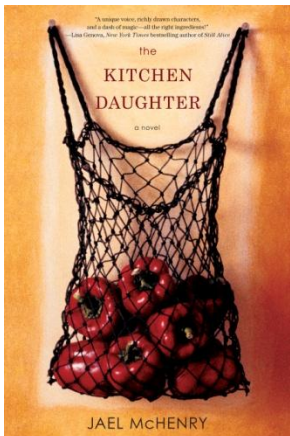
7:45 pmET

Mainstream (Gale)

Miracles can be damned inconvenient. That's what thirty-four-year-old stroke victim Jonathan Hooper learns when he wakes up after spending six years in a coma. Everyone calls Jonathan's recovery a "miracle," but since nobody had expected him to recover, his sudden awakening becomes an

awkward intrusion on the lives of his family and friends. To make matters worse, Jonathan doesn't even recognize these people. The stroke has wiped away most of Jonathan's memory, while the coma has withered his body. In short, Jonathan's not the man he used to be - whoever that was.

[www.keithcronin.com/writer.html](http://www.keithcronin.com/writer.html)



## ***The Kitchen Daughter*** **Jael McHenry**

#bagg-8

8:00 pmET

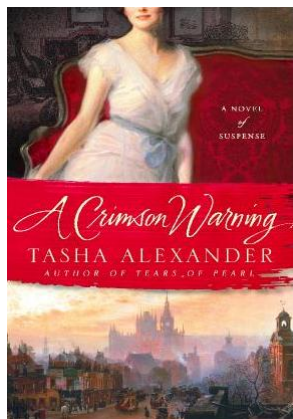
Women's Fiction (Simon & Schuster)

*The Kitchen Daughter* is about a woman who discovers she can invoke ghosts by cooking from dead people's recipes. Julie & Julia meets Jodi Picoult in this poignant and delectable novel with recipes, chronicling one woman’s journey of self-discovery at the stove. After the unexpected death of her

parents, shy and sheltered Ginny Selvaggio, a young woman with Asperger’s Syndrome, seeks comfort in family recipes. But the rich, peppery scent of her Nonna’s soup draws an unexpected visitor into the kitchen: the ghost of Nonna

herself, dead for twenty years, who appears with a cryptic warning—before vanishing like steam from a cooling dish.

[www.jaelmchenry.com](http://www.jaelmchenry.com)



## ***A Crimson Warning*** **Tasha Alexander**

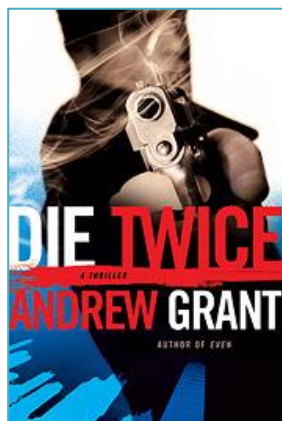
#bagg-9

8:15 pmET

Mystery (Minotaur Books)

Newly returned to her home in Mayfair, Lady Emily Hargreaves is looking forward to enjoying the delights of the season. The delights, that is, as defined by her own eccentricities—reading *The Aeneid*, waltzing with her dashing husband, and joining the Women’s Liberal Federation in the early stages of its campaign to win the vote for women. But an audacious vandal disturbs the peace in the capital city, splashing red paint on the neat edifices of the homes of London’s elite. This mark, impossible to hide, presages the revelation of scandalous secrets, driving the hapless victims into disgrace, despair and even death. Soon, all of London high society is living in fear of learning who will be the next target, and Lady Emily and her husband, Colin, favorite agent of the crown, must uncover the identity and reveal the motives of the twisted mind behind it all before another innocent life is lost.

[www.tashaalexander.com](http://www.tashaalexander.com)



## ***Die Twice*** **Andrew Grant**

#bagg-9a

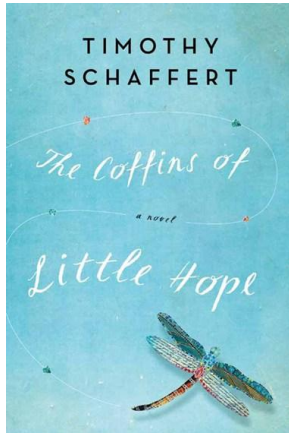
8:20 pmET

Mystery (Minotaur Books)

Obliged to leave New York City in the aftermath of his previous mission, David Trevelyan is summoned to the British Consulate in Chicago. To the same office where, just a week before, his new handler was attacked and shot by a Royal Navy Intelligence operative gone bad. Assigned the job of finding the rogue agent and putting an end to his treacherous scheme, Trevelyan soon finds that once again, his only hopes of saving countless innocent lives lie not within the system, but in his own instincts and skills. Trust is an illusion—trust the wrong person, and it could get you killed. Drawing comparisons to Robert

Ludlum, and his own brother, Lee Child, Andrew Grant's remarkably seasoned voice cuts a new path through the crime thriller genre, continuing to test the limits in this groundbreaking new series.

[www.andrewgrantbooks.com](http://www.andrewgrantbooks.com)



## ***The Coffins of Little Hope*** **Timothy Schaffert**

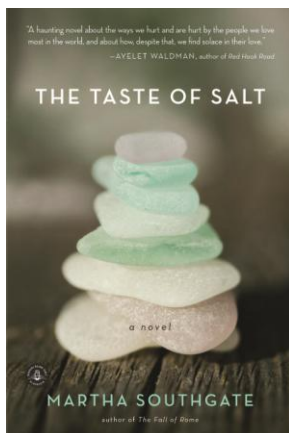
#bagg-10

8:30 pmET

Mainstream (Unbridled Books)

Timothy Schaffert has created his most memorable character yet in Essie, an octogenarian obituary writer for her family's small town newspaper. When a young country girl is reported to be missing, perhaps whisked away by an itinerant aerial photographer, Essie stumbles onto the story of her life. Or, it all could be simply a hoax, or a delusion, the child and child-thief invented from the desperate imagination of a lonely, lovelorn woman. Either way, the story of the girl reaches far and wide, igniting controversy, attracting curiosity-seekers and cult worshippers from all over the country to this dying rural town. And then it is revealed that the long awaited final book of an infamous series of ya gothic novels is being secretly printed on the newspaper's presses. *The Coffins of Little Hope* tells a feisty, energetic story of characters caught in the intricately woven webs of myth, legend and deception even as Schaffert explores with his typical exquisite care and sharp eye the fragility of childhood, the strength of family, the powerful rumor mills of rural America, and the sometimes dramatic effects of pop culture on the way we shape our world.

[www.timothyschaffert.com](http://www.timothyschaffert.com)



## ***The Taste of Salt*** **Martha Southgate**

#bagg-10a

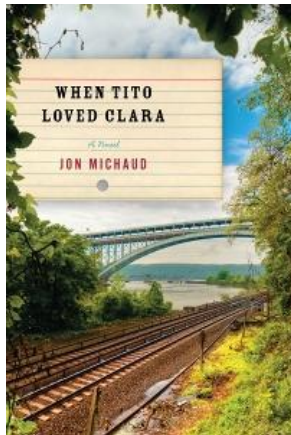
8:35 pmET

Mainstream (Algonquin Books)

Josie Henderson loves the water and is fulfilled by her position as the only senior-level black scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. In building this impressive life for herself, she has tried to shed the one thing she cannot: her family back in landlocked Cleveland. Her adored brother, Tick, was her childhood ally as they watched their drinking

father push away all the love that his wife and children were trying to give him. Now Tick himself has been coming apart and demands to be heard. Weaving four voices into a beautiful tapestry, Southgate charts the lives of the Hendersons from the parents' first charmed meeting to Josie's realization that the ways of the human heart are more complex than anything seen under a microscope.

[www.marthasouthgate.com](http://www.marthasouthgate.com)



## ***When Tito Loved Clara*** **Jon Michaud**

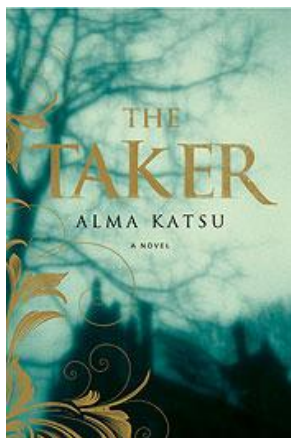
#bagg-11

8:45 pmET

Mainstream (Algonquin Books)

Clara Lugo grew up in a home that would have rattled the most grounded of children. Through brains and determination, she has long since slipped the bonds of her confining Dominican neighborhood in the northern reaches of Manhattan. Now she tries to live a settled professional life with her American husband and son in the suburbs of New Jersey—often thwarted by her constellation of relatives who don't understand her gringa ways. Her mostly happy life is disrupted, however, when Tito, a former boyfriend from fifteen years earlier, reappears. Something has impeded his passage into adulthood. His mother calls him an Unfinished Man. He still carries a torch for Clara; and she harbors a secret from their past. Their reacquaintance sets in motion an unraveling of both of their lives and reveals what the cost of assimilation—or the absence of it—has meant for each of them.

[www.jonmichaud.com](http://www.jonmichaud.com)



## ***The Taker*** **Alma Katsu**

#bagg-12

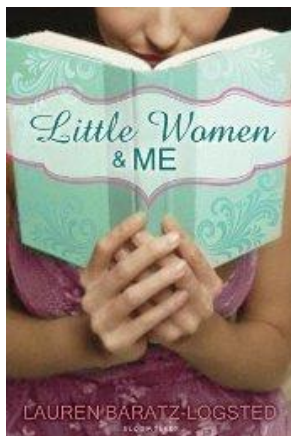
9:00 pmET

Paranormal (Gallery Books)

Part historical novel and part supernatural page-turner, *The Taker* is an unforgettable novel about the power of love not only to elevate and sustain, but to blind and ultimately destroy, and how each person is responsible to find their own path to redemption. On the midnight shift at a hospital

in rural Maine, Dr. Luke Findley is expecting another quiet evening of frostbite and the occasional domestic dispute. But the minute Lanore McIlvrae—Lanny—walks into his ER, she changes his life forever. A mysterious woman with a past and plenty of dark secrets, Lanny is unlike anyone Luke has ever met. He is inexplicably drawn to her . . . despite the fact that she is a murder suspect with a police escort. And as she begins to tell her story, a story of enduring love and consummate betrayal that transcends time and mortality, Luke finds himself utterly captivated. Her impassioned account begins at the turn of the nineteenth century in the same small town of St. Andrew, Maine, back when it was a Puritan settlement. Consumed as a child by her love for the son of the town's founder, Lanny will do anything to be with him forever. But the price she pays is steep—an immortal bond that chains her to a terrible fate for all eternity. And now, two centuries later, the key to her healing and her salvation lies with Dr. Luke Findley.

[www.almakatsu.com](http://www.almakatsu.com)



***Little Women & Me***  
**Lauren Baratz-Logsted**

#bagg-12a

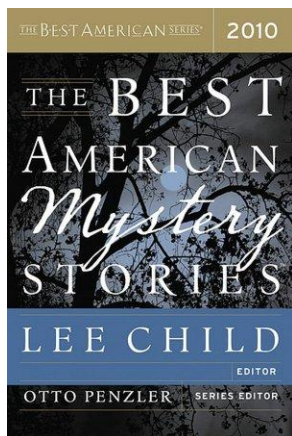
9:05 pmET

YA (Bloomsbury USA)

Emily is sick and tired of being a middle sister. So when she gets an assignment to describe what she'd change about a classic novel, Emily pounces on *Little Women*. After all, if she can't change things in her own family, maybe she can bring a little justice to the March sisters. (Kill off Beth? Have cute Laurie wind up with Amy instead of Jo? What was Louisa May Alcott thinking?!) But when Emily gets mysteriously transported into the 1860s world of the book, she discovers that righting fictional wrongs won't be easy. And after being immersed in a time and place so different from her own, it may be Emily—not the four March sisters—who undergoes the most surprising change of all. Lauren Baratz-Logsted's winning confection will appeal to fans of *Little Women* as well as anyone who enjoys a modern twist on an old favorite.

[www.laurenbaratzlogsted.com](http://www.laurenbaratzlogsted.com)

More auction books on next page →



## ***Exclusive 3-Book Mystery Anthology signed by author Joseph Wallace***

**Joseph Wallace and various authors**

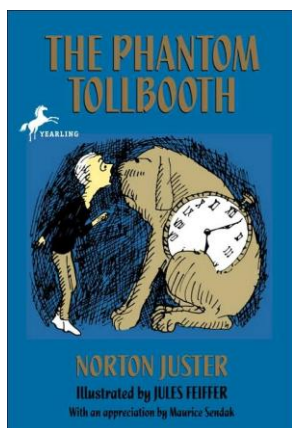
#bagg-13

9:15 pmET

Mystery (Various Publishers)

Three book exclusive includes Baltimore Noir, Bronx Noir, and Best American Mystery Stories 2010. Signed by author Joseph Wallace, these anthologies include Joseph's short stories "Liminal," "The Big Five" and "Custom Sets," in addition to stories by Dennis Lehane, Lawrence Sanders, Laura Lippman, SJ Rozan, Kurt Vonnegut and others. Joseph Wallace is the author of Diamond Ruby (Touchstone).

[www.josephwallace.com](http://www.josephwallace.com)



## ***The Phantom Tollbooth***

**Norton Juster**

#bagg-14

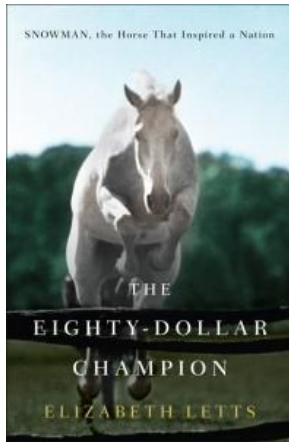
9:30 pmET

Children's (Bullseye Books)

50-year anniversary of this classic children's tale. Illustrated in black-and-white by legendary cartoonist Jules Pfeiffer. This ingenious fantasy centers around Milo, a bored ten-year-old who comes home to find a large toy tollbooth sitting in his room. Joining forces with a watchdog named Tock, Milo drives through the tollbooth's gates and begins a memorable journey. He meets such characters as the foolish, yet lovable Humbug, the Mathemagician, and the not-so-wicked "Which," Faintly Macabre, who gives Milo the "impossible" mission of returning two princesses to the Kingdom of Wisdom.

More auction books on next page →

LitChat conversation happens through Twitter every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4-5 pm/et. Find us through Twitter using the hashtag, #LitChat. Become a follower of us in Twitter at @LitChat. Visit our blog, updated weekly with new discussion topics and chatscripts of our guest author hosts: [www.litchat.net](http://www.litchat.net)



## ***The Eighty Dollar Champion*** **Elizabeth Letts**

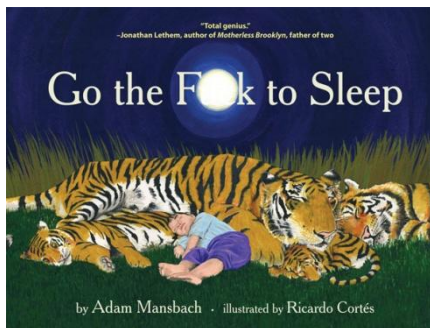
#bagg-16

9:45 pmET

Nonfiction (Random House)

November 1958: the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden in New York City. In the rarefied atmosphere of wealth and tradition, sleek hotheaded thoroughbreds piloted by seasoned professionals waited their turn to take on a course of towering jumps. Into the ring trotted the most unlikely competitors — a drab white former plow horse named Snowman and a young riding instructor named Harry de Leyer. They were the longest of all long shots and their win would become the stuff of legend. Harry de Leyer first saw the horse he would name Snowman on a bleak February afternoon between the slats of a rickety truck bound for the slaughterhouse. The big gray horse had matted hair, open wounds on both knees and harness marks across his chest. He was as plain and friendly as a favorite mutt. A man's best friend kind of horse Harry decided. He bought him for \$80.

[www.elizabethletts.com](http://www.elizabethletts.com)

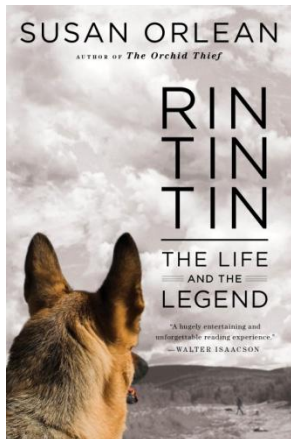


## ***Go the F\*\*k to Sleep*** **Adam Mansbach**

#bagg-16 a 9:50 pmET Adult nonfiction (Akashik Books)

*Go the F\*\*k to Sleep* is a bedtime book for parents who live in the real world, where a few snoozing kitties and cutesy rhymes don't always send a toddler sailing blissfully off to dreamland. Profane, affectionate, and radically honest, California Book Award-winning author Adam Mansbach's verses perfectly capture the familiar--and unspoken--tribulations of putting your little angel down for the night. In the process, they open up a conversation about parenting, granting us permission to admit our frustrations, and laugh at their absurdity. With illustrations by Ricardo Cortés, *Go the F\*\*k to Sleep* is beautiful, subversive, and pants-wettingly funny--a book for parents new, old, and expectant. You probably should not read it to your children.

[www.adammansbach.com](http://www.adammansbach.com)



## ***Rin Tin Tin*** **Susan Orlean**

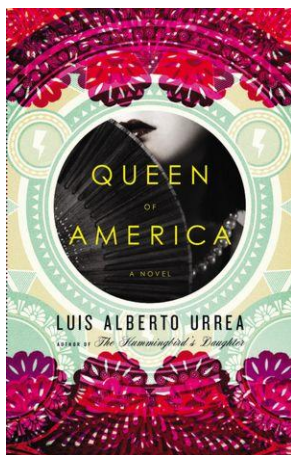
#bagg-17

10:00 pmET

Nonfiction (Simon & Schuster)

He believed the dog was immortal.' So begins Susan Orlean's sweeping, powerfully moving story of Rin Tin Tin's journey from orphaned puppy to movie star and international icon. From the moment in 1918 when Corporal Lee Duncan discovers Rin Tin Tin on a World War I battlefield, he recognizes something in the pup that he needs to share with the world. Rin Tin Tin's improbable introduction to Hollywood leads to the dog's first blockbuster film and over time, the many radio programs, movies, and television shows that follow. The canine hero's legacy is cemented by Duncan and a small group of others who devote their lives to keeping him and his descendants alive. At its heart, *Rin Tin Tin* is a poignant exploration of the enduring bond between humans and animals. But it is also a richly textured history of twentieth-century entertainment and entrepreneurship and the changing role of dogs in the American family and society. Almost ten years in the making, Susan Orlean's first original book since *The Orchid Thief* is a tour de force of history, human interest, and masterful storytelling—the ultimate must—read for anyone who loves great dogs or great yarns.

[www.susanorlean.com](http://www.susanorlean.com)

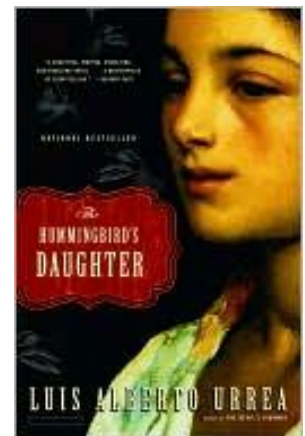


## ***Two Book Exclusive:*** ***Hardback First Editions of*** ***The Hummingbird's Daughter*** ***and Queen of America*** **Luis Alberto Urrea**

#bagg-18

10:15 pmET

Mainstream (Back Bay Books and Little Brown & Company)



Two Book Exclusive: HD First Editions of *The Hummingbird's Daughter* and *Queen of America*. →

***Queen of America***, sequel to *The Hummingbird's Daughter*:

After the bloody Tomochic rebellion, Teresita Urrea, beloved healer and "Saint of Cabora," flees with her father to Arizona. But their plans are derailed when she once again is claimed as the spiritual leader of the Mexican Revolution. Besieged by pilgrims and pursued by assassins, Teresita embarks on a journey through turn-of-the-century industrial America-New York, San Francisco, St. Louis. She meets immigrants and tycoons, European royalty and Cuban poets, all waking to the new American century. And as she decides what her own role in this modern future will be, she must ask herself: can a saint fall in love? At turns heartbreaking, uplifting, and riotously funny, *Queen of America* reconfirms Luis Alberto Urrea's status as a writer of the first rank.

***The Hummingbird's Daughter***, winner Kiriyama Pacific Rim Prize 2006:

Teresita is not an ordinary girl. Born of an illiterate, poor Indian mother, she knows little about her past or her future. She has no idea that her father is Don Tomas Urrea, the wild and rich owner of a vast ranch in the Mexican state of Sinaloa. She has no idea that Huila, the elderly healer who takes Teresita under her wing, knows secrets about her destiny. And she has no idea that soon all of Mexico will rise in revolution, crying out her name." "When Teresita is but a teenager, learning from Huila the way plants can cure the sick and prayer can move the earth, she discovers an even greater gift: she has the power to heal. Her touch, like warm honey, melts pain and suffering. But such a gift can be a burden, too. Before long, the Urrea ranch is crowded with pilgrims and with agents of a Mexican government wary of anything that might threaten its power." *The Hummingbird's Daughter* is the story of a girl coming to terms with her destiny, with the miraculous, and with the power of faith. It is the tale of a father discovering what true love is and a daughter recognizing that sometimes true love requires true sacrifice.

## **Thank You for Your Support**

If you have any questions about LitChat, the BOOKS ARE GREAT GIFTS campaign, or the #BAGG auction, please contact:

Carolyn Burns Bass

[twitchat@gmail.com](mailto:twitchat@gmail.com)

If you have questions about Reader To Reader, please contact:

David Mazor

Founder and Executive Director

[dmazor@readertoreader.org](mailto:dmazor@readertoreader.org)

We wish to thank everyone who has participated in supporting LitChat's BOOKS ARE GREAT GIFTS campaign through the 2011 holiday season. Those who RT'd tweets, to those who adorned their Twitter avatar with a "Twibbon," to anyone who made a comment on the LitChat blog, and to everyone who bid on books during the auction, LitChat is enormously grateful. You are the jingle in LitChat's bells.

Here's to a happy and healthy holiday season and prosperous new year.