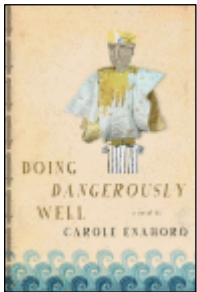


Dewey Diva Picks – Spring 2010 – Maylin Scott – Random House of Canada
Questions or comments, please e-mail me at mjscott@randomhouse.com



Curtains: Adventures of an Undertaker-in-Training by Tom Jokinen – 978-0-307-35568-3 - \$32.00 – Random House Canada – March 2010

I never would have guessed that a book exploring the funeral home industry would be so incredibly funny (and horrifying), or that I would enjoy reading it so much. Essentially Jokinen shows that no matter what your own personal choices are – and at its core, this is a very respectful book – there is no way to go with any dignity. From the battle between independent funeral homes and “the chains”, to a description of tawdry and tacky trade shows, there are more similarities between the funeral and the book industries than it would appear.



Doing Dangerously Well by Carole Enahoro – 978-0-307-35690-1 – Knopf Canada - \$29.95 – May 2010

A dark comedy about disaster capitalism, cutthroat office politics, vicious sibling rivalry, hapless do-gooderism and the corporatization of water. When a humanitarian catastrophe strikes Nigeria, an unforgettable cast of Machiavellian opportunists and quixotic do-gooders swoop in to make the most of the tragedy. A provocative Canadian debut novel and funny to boot, full of corporate espionage and backstabbing and uncomfortable family politics. Part of our annual New Face of Fiction series, Enahoro is definitely a writer to watch.



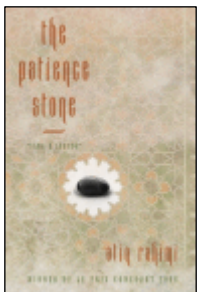
Everything Flows by Vasily Grossman, trans. by Robert Chandler, Elizabeth Chandler and Anna Aslanyan – 978-1-59017-328-2 – New York Review of Books - \$19.95 Trade Original – December 2009

Released after thirty years in the Soviet camps, Ivan Grigoryevich must struggle to find a place for himself in an unfamiliar world. But in a novel that seeks to take in the whole tragedy of Soviet history, we also hear about a scientist who never let his conscience interfere with his career, the informer who got Ivan sent to the camps, and Anna, Ivan’s lover, who details her eager involvement in the Terror famine of 1932–33, which led to the deaths of three to five million Ukrainian peasants. A powerful and moving novel for fans of Alexander Solzhenitsyn or Hans Fallada.



Wish Her Safe at Home by Stephen Benatar – 978-159017-335-0 - New York Review of Books - \$19.95 Trade Original – January 2010

A wonderfully comic novel about a feisty, passionate woman who inherits a house from her great-aunt, only to become romantically obsessed with its former tenant (who has been dead for centuries). This is Miss Haversham meets Elaine Dundy’s Sally from *Dud Avocado* meets Katherine Mansfield’s “Miss Brill”. For everyone who has longed to say out loud what she really thinks!



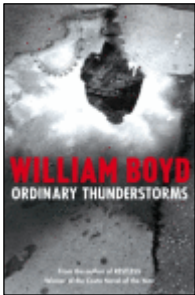
The Patience Stone by Atiq Rahimi, trans. by Polly McLean – 978-1-59051-344-6 – Other Press - \$19.95 – January 2010

An Afghan woman is trying to keep her husband, who is lying in a coma, alive while the war rages outside the house. His silence urges her to confess, first tentatively and then with more and more anger, all the frustrations of her marriage, the hardships of living through a war, and most of all the intolerable position of women living in Afghan society. Can the husband hear what she is saying? Or see what she is doing? One of the most powerful and explosive books of the year – a must-read for fans of *The Kite Runner*, *Swallows of Kabul* or *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. A terrific choice for bookclubs. The book won the 2008 Prix Goncourt, one of France’s top literary prizes.



The American Girl by Monika Fagerholm, trans. by Katarina E. Tucker – 978-159051-304-0 – Other Press - \$19.95 Trade Original – February 2010

The body of a young American girl is found wearing a red raincoat. Her boyfriend hangs himself. Another girl puts a gun to her head and pulls the trigger. These deaths haunt this spellbinding novel about two lonely teenage girls who play games, make up stories and try to discover the truth about the strange happenings in their community. But they are increasingly hampered because the adults are also playing games. Great storytelling for fans of complex murder mysteries, Donna Tartt, or Patricia Highsmith. Gothic and spooky and a sequel to come.



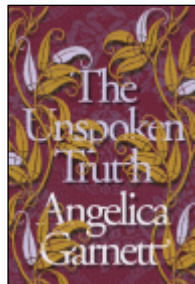
Ordinary Thunderstorms by William Boyd – 978-0-307-35820-2 – Random House Canada - \$32.95 – February 2010

An exciting literary thriller about a young academic who is in London for a job interview but ends up in the wrong place at the wrong time, and is subsequently hunted down as the prime suspect in a grisly murder. He has to completely disregard his identity and live anonymously on the streets of London while trying to clear his name. The moral ambiguities and questions that surface in this novel are constantly intriguing. For fans of John Le Carré, Sebastian Faulks and Ian McEwan.



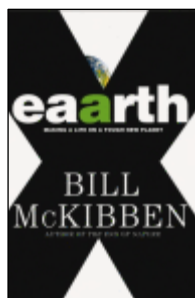
Solar by Ian McEwan – 978-0-307-39924-3 – Knopf Canada - \$32.00 – March 2010

This is one of McEwan's funniest books about the professional and personal melt-down of a Nobel prize-winning physicist who gets involved in a scheme to help global warming through the use of solar energy. Part academic satire, part male mid-life crisis, it's full of cringing black humour and hilarious episodes. For fans of David Lodge, Kingsley Amis and of course anyone who has enjoyed McEwan's previous work. I guarantee laughs and winces and at least one crossing of the legs, regardless of what sex you are.



The Unspoken Truth by Angelica Garnett - 978-0-7011-8435-3 - Chatto & Windus - \$34.95 - February 2010

A beautiful collection of autobiographical short stories by the niece of Virginia Woolf who is still alive at the age of 91. These are stories about family and friendships among a world of painters and poets and the jealousy and unhappiness that can accompany living among genius. Here too is a portrait of a woman seeking an understanding and acceptance of her past, and struggling to emerge from a formidable legacy. For fans of A.S. Byatt's *The Children's Book*.



Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet by Bill McKibben – 978-0-307-39918-2 – Knopf Canada - \$32.00 – April 2010

A manifesto – scary but also optimistic – about the irreversible damage we've done to our planet, to the point where we need to call it by another name - from one of the world's foremost environmentalists and writers. We can't turn back the clock, so we need to think seriously about how we are going to live on a much changed planet. It's not our grandchildren we have to worry about – it's us, today and in the near future. This book will depress you but it's one that every citizen needs to read. Concise and to the point, it is also suitable for teens.