## No Easy Day II Racconto In Prima Persona Delluccisione Di Bin Laden

The #1 New York Times bestselling first-person account of the planning and execution of the Bin Laden raid from a Navy SEAL who confronted the terrorist mastermind and witnessed his final moments. From the streets of Iraq to the rescue of Captain Richard Phillips in the Indian Ocean, and from the mountaintops of Afghanistan to the third floor of Osama Bin Laden's compound, operator Mark Owen of the U.S. Naval Special Warfare Development Group—known as SEAL Team Six—has been a part of some of the most memorable special operations in history, as well as countless missions that never made headlines. No Easy Day puts readers alongside Owen and his fellow SEAL team members as they train for the biggest mission of their lives. The blow-by-blow narrative of the assault, beginning with the helicopter crash that could have ended Owen's life straight through to the radio call confirming Bin Laden's death, is an essential piece of modern history. In No Easy Day, Owen also takes readers into the War on Terror and details the formation of the most elite units in the military. Owen's story draws on his youth in Alaska and describes the SEALs' quest to challenge themselves at the highest levels of physical and mental endurance. With boots-on-the-ground detail, Owen describes several missions that illustrate the life and work of a SEAL and the evolution of the team after the events of September 11. In telling the true story of the SEALs whose talents, skills, experiences, and exceptional sacrifices led to one of the greatest victories in the War on Terror, Mark Owen honors the men who risk everything for our country, and he leaves readers with a deep understanding of the warriors who keep America safe.

What happens when catastrophe becomes an everyday occurrence? Each of the seven stories in Assia Djebar's The Tongue's Blood Does Not Run Dry reaches into the void where normal and impossible realities coexist. All the stories were written in 1995 and 1996—a time when, by official accounts, some two hundred thousand Algerians were killed in Islamist assassinations and government army reprisals. Each story grew from a real conversation on the streets of Paris between the author and fellow Algerians about what was happening in their native land. Contemporary events are joined on the page by classical themes in Arab literature, whether in the form of Berber texts sung by the women of the Mzab or the tales from The Book of One Thousand and One Nights. The Tongue's Blood Does Not Run Dry beautifully explores the conflicting realities of the role of women in the Arab world. With renowned and unparalleled skill, Assia Djebar gives voice to her longing for a world she has put behind her. THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER The only comprehensive, firsthand account of the fourteen-hour firefight at the Battle of Keating in Afghanistan by Medal of Honor recipient Clinton Romesha, for readers of Black Hawk Down by Mark Bowden and Lone Survivor by Marcus Luttrell. "It doesn't get better." To us, that phrase nailed one of the essential truths, maybe even the essential truth, about being stuck at an outpost whose strategic and tactical vulnerabilities were so glaringly obvious to every soldier who had ever set foot in that place that the name itself—Keating—had become a kind of backhanded joke." In 2009, Clinton Romesha of Red Platoon and the rest of the Black Knight Troop were preparing to shut down Command Outpost (COP) Keating, the most remote and inaccessible in a string of bases built by the US military in Nuristan and Kunar in the hope of preventing Taliban insurgents from moving freely back and forth between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Three years after its construction, the army was finally ready to concede what the men on the ground had known immediately: it was simply too isolated and too dangerous to defend. On October 3, 2009, after years of constant smaller attacks, the Taliban finally decided to throw everything they had at Keating. The ensuing fourteen-hour battle—and eventual victory—cost eight men their lives. Red Platoon is the riveting firsthand account of the Battle of Keating, told by Romesha, who spearheaded both the defense of the outpost and the counterattack that drove the Taliban back beyond the wire and received the Medal of Honor for his actions. Religious belief is one of the most pervasive and ubiquitous characteristics of human society. Religion has shadowed and illuminated human lives since primitive times, shaping the world views of cultures from isolated tribes to vast empires. Starting from the premise that religion is a concept which can be analysed and compared across time and cultures, What is Religion? brings the most up-to-date scholarship to bear on humankind's most enduring creation. The book opens with a brief history of the idea of religion, then divides the study of religion into four essential topics - types, representations, practices, and institutions – and concludes with a final, eye-opening chapter on religion today. Packed with case studies from a wide range of religions, past and present, What is Religion? offers a very current, comprehensive, yet intellectually challenging overview of the history, theories, practices, and study of religion. Accessible, wide-ranging, engaging, and short, What is Religion? is written primarily for undergraduate students in the study of religion, but it will also be invaluable for students of anthropology, history, psychology, and theology as well as anyone interested in how and why humans came and continue to be religious.

Dopo aver descritto in No Easy Day la più importante e clamorosa operazione di intelligence degli ultimi anni – l'uccisione di Osama bin Laden –, Mark Owen torna a raccontare le sue imprese di Navy SEAL. In No Hero l'attenzione si allontana dalle missioni da prima pagina, caratterizzate da bersagli di alto profilo, per concentrarsi sugli incarichi per Owen più significativi sul piano personale – missioni «minori» che non sono mai finite sui giornali – e sui momenti in cui l'autore ha imparato a conoscere se stesso e i suoi compagni, nei successi così come nei fallimenti. «Vorrei che No Hero offrisse qualcosa di diverso da gran parte dei libri: il lato intimo, le battaglie personali, le difficoltà e quello che ho imparato affrontandole» dichiara Owen. «Le storie che racconto in No Hero sono un omaggio ai miei compagni e a tutti gli altri SEAL, ancora in servizio o meno, che hanno dedicato la loro vita alla libertà. Nella nostra comunità ci viene sempre insegnato a essere i mentori della generazione successiva e a trasmettere agli altri le lezioni e i valori che abbiamo appreso, in modo che possano servire alle generazioni che verranno. È quello che spero di aver fatto per i lettori di No Hero.» Carico di azione come No Easy Day, con storie che spaziano dall'addestramento ai campi di battaglia, No Hero offre per la prima volta al lettore uno sguardo ravvicinato su esperienze e valori che hanno reso Mark Owen, e i SEAL con i quali ha prestato servizio, in grado di portare a termine le missioni che leggiamo sui giornali.

Un blitz che è già storia. Un racconto dell'America più potente e segreta.

A 17th century Italian nobleman is marooned on an empty ship in this "astonishing intellectual journey" by the author of Foucault's Pendulum (San Francisco Chronicle). In the year 1643, a violent storm in the South Pacific leaves Roberto della Griva shipwrecked—on a ship. Swept from the Amaryllis, he has managed to pull himself aboard the Daphne, anchored in the bay of a beautiful island. The ship is fully provisioned, he discovers, but the crew is missing. As Roberto explores the different cabinets in the hold, he looks back on various episodes from his life: Ferrante, his imaginary evil brother; the siege of Casale, that meaningless chess move in the Thirty Years' War in which he lost his father and his illusions; and the lessons given him on Reasons of State, fencing, the writing of love letters, and blasphemy. In this "intellectually stimulating and dramatically intriguing" novel, Umberto Eco conjures a young dreamer searching for love and meaning; and an old Jesuit who, with his clocks and maps, has plumbed the secrets of longitudes, the four moons of Jupiter, and the Flood (Chicago Tribune).

While spending the day in the Robinson household, Wilbur's best friend Lewis helps search for Grandfather Robinson's missing false teeth in this classic picture book from William Joyce that inspired the Disney animated sci-fi comedy, Meet the Robinsons! No need to knock, just step right in. You're just in time to two-step with Grandfather Robinson and his dancing frog band. Cousin Laszlo is demonstrating his new antigravity device. And Uncle Art's flying saucer is parked out back. It seems like all the Robinson relatives are here, so be prepared. And keep your head down...Uncle Gaston is testing out the family cannon. Oh, and watch where you sit, Grandpa's lost his teeth again. Welcome to the Robinson's.

From Mark Bowden, the preeminent chronicler of our military and special forces, comes The Finish, a gripping account of the hunt for Osama bin Laden. With access to key sources, Bowden takes us inside the rooms where decisions were made and on the ground where the action unfolded. After masterminding the attacks of September 11, 2001, Osama bin Laden managed to vanish. Over the next ten years, as Bowden shows, America found that its war with all Qaeda—a scattered group of individuals who were almost impossible to track—demanded an innovative approach. Step by step, Bowden describes the development of a new tactical strategy to fight this war—the fusion of intel from various agencies and on-the-ground special ops. After thousands of special forces missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, the right weapon to go after bin Laden had finally evolved. By Spring 2011, intelligence pointed to a compound in Abbottabad; it was estimated that there was a 50/50 chance that Osama was there. Bowden shows how three strategies were mooted: a drone strike, a precision bombing, or an assault by Navy SEALs. In the end, the President had to make the final decision. It was time for the finish.

From the #1 New York Times bestselling coauthor of No Easy Day comes a thrilling World War II story of the American airborne soldiers who captured a Japanese-held island fortress "Rock Force is a beautifully told story of war: the friendships, the courage and despair, and the terror... One of the most exciting books ever written about the Pacific War."—Mitch Weiss, New York Times bestselling coauthor of Countdown 1945 in late December 1941, General Douglas MacArthur, caught off guard by the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, is forced to retreat to Corregidor, a jagged, rocky island fortress at the mouth of Manila Bay. Months later, under orders from the president, the general is whisked away in the dark of night, leaving his troops to their fate. It is a bitter pill for a fiercely proud warrior who has always protected his men. He famously decl

Karen Stephens is an ordinary woman living an ordinary life in the year 2010. Until the day she hears an unfamiliar song that moves her in a way she cannot understand or explain. Judy Paige was also an ordinary young woman, who lived an ordinary life, up until the day she sang her song One Day You'll Leave Me at a show in the year 1964. When Karen's curiosity about the song turns into an obsession about the woman who sang it, she's drawn to the town of Leyfant, Texas. The town in which Judy Paige was born and raised. It's there that Karen is approached by a man who calls himself Mr. Smith. A man who asks Karen a simple question. "Would you like to meet her?" The question is simple, but the answer is not. Because Judy Paige has been dead for almost twenty years. What would you be willing to give up for the person you love? Your life? Your memories? Everybody and everything you've ever known?

How is it possible for one middle-aged Saudi millionaire to threaten the world's only superpower? This is the question at the center of Jonathan Randal's riveting, timely account of Osama bin Laden's life and role in the rise of terrorism in the Middle East. Randal traces the current sources of Osama's money and tells us why the Iraq war has played into the hands of the terrorists, while also providing essential insight and background on the history of American involvement in the Middle East. With his long-maintained sources in the Middle East and his intimate understanding of the region, Randal gives us a clearer explanation than any we have had of the whys and wherefores of the world's most prominent and feared terrorist.

The advanced technology of a house first pleases then increasingly terrifies its occupants.

winning, through blood and sacrifice, the redemption of General MacArthur.

Primo maggio 2011: il Re del Terrore è morto. Osama bin Laden, l'uomo che per un decennio ha tenuto l'Occidente nella morsa della paura, è stato ucciso. Per la prima volta la più importante ed eclatante operazione di intelligence degli ultimi anni viene raccontata attraverso le clamorose rivelazioni di uno dei diretti protagonisti, un ex appartenente al Team Six dei SEAL (le forze speciali della Marina statunitense) che per primo ha fatto irruzione nell'ultimo rifugio di Bin Laden. Sotto lo pseudonimo di Mark Owen, l'autore ripercorre la sua esperienza nei corpi speciali, a comiciare dall'agognato ingresso nei SEAL, passando per il salvataggio del capitano Richard Phillips, rapito dai pirati somali nell'Oceano Indiano, fino alla guerra ai talebani sulle montagne afghane e all'assalto del compound di Abbottabad, in Pakistan, dove si nascondeva il leader di al Qaeda. Per due settimane gli uomini della squadra vengono addestrati ad affrontare il compito più importante della loro vita: la caccia a Bin Laden, nell'operazione denominata Lancia di Nettuno. Per Owen e i suoi compagni il successo della missione, oltre che dovuto alla partecipazione a centinaia di operazioni in tutto il globo, è frutto di anni di addestramento durissimo, teso a portare ai limiti massimi la resistenza psicofisica, una preparazione che consente loro di affrontare qualsiasi genere di evento e di imprevisto, qualsiasi tipologia di nemico. Il raid nel quartier generale segreto di Bin Laden è raccontato nei minimi dettagli con un ritmo da togliere il fiato, dall'incidente con l'elicottero che avrebbe potuto compromettere la missione e costare la vita a Owen fino alla comunicazione radio che conferma la morte del loro obiettivo. In No Easy Day, Mark Owen conduce i lettori dietro le linee nemiche insieme a uno dei più straordinari corpi d'élite del mondo, offrendoci l'unico resoconto in prima persona di una delle loro missioni più spettacolari.

Dwarf rabbit Haru's odd behavior causes gray wolf Legoshi to flee. He then learns that the Drama Club recruits new students with inner demons. What does their club president, red deer Louis, wrestle with...? Before Legoshi can figure it out, Louis pressures him to face not only his own weaknesses but also his strengths. Legoshi's character is truly put to the test when his onstage fight choreography with Bengal tiger Bill turns all too real. Has someone broken the school rules? And could the battle between Legoshi and Bill involve...rabbits? -- VIZ Media The inaugural monthly e-book series about genealogy highlights about African Americans, Afro Caribbeans and Africans who survived harsh circumstances that allow us to breathe the air of today's freedom from physical bondage. August First features the little-known accounts about "August 1st, Nicodemus and Red Summer." You will learn about resilience, triumph and innovation from ancestors who turned a little into a lot.

A breakout bestseller in Italy, now available for American readers for the first time, Genesis: The Story of How Everything Began is a short, humanistic tour of the origins of the universe, earth, and life—drawing on the latest discoveries in physics to explain the seven most significant moments in the creation of the cosmos. Curiosity and wonderment about the origins of the universe are at the heart of our experience of the world. From Hesiod's Chaos, described in his poem about the origins of the Greek gods, Theogony, to today's mind-bending theories of the multiverse, humans have been consumed by the relentless pursuit of an answer to one awe inspiring question: What exactly happened during those first moments? Guido Tonelli, the acclaimed, award-winning particle physicist and a central figure in the discovery of the Higgs boson (the "God particle"), reveals the extraordinary story of our genesis—from the origins of the universe, to the emergence of life on Earth, to the birth of human language with its power to describe the world. Evoking the seven days of biblical creation, Tonelli takes us on a brisk, lively tour through the evolution of our cosmos and considers the incredible challenges scientists face in exploring its mysteries. Genesis both explains the fundamental physics of our universe and

marvels at the profound wonder of our existence.

Key Features: Study methods Introduction to the text Summaries with critical notes Themes and techniques Textual analysis of key passages Author biography Historical and literary background Modern and historical critical approaches Chronology Glossary of literary terms

This is the world's only illustrated guide to the real ninja teachings of historic Japan. These original techniques are presented in a highly accessible 'how-to' format that combines easy-to-follow text with a fresh, contemporary design that includes step-by-step photographs. This is the first book ever to present the authentic ninja techniques in a highly accessible, illustrated 'how to' format. The shadowy figure of the ninja – expert commando, secret agent, maverick who operates outside social norms – continues to exert fascination in the West, yet much of what is presented as ninja fact today is distorted or wrong. Drawing on the scrolls created by historical Japanese ninjas (or shinobi, as they were then known), this book offers the real ninja teachings in 150 easy-to-follow, illustrated lessons designed to draw contemporary students of ninja straight into the world of these skilled spy-commandos. The truth about the ninja is so much more complex and intriguing than the Hollywood clichés we know today. We may think, for example, of a ninja as being always garbed in black and fighting with 'throwing stars' but in fact, a ninja had clothes in different colours to serve as disguises for different times of day, and their arsenal of weaponry could include anything from poison, poison gas, pepper spray and fire-creating tools to swords, spears and knives (but no throwing stars). The 150 lessons in this book cover all the basics of ninja warcraft, including clever ideas for infiltrating an enemy compound (from wearing 'silent sandals' to faking passes and passwords), tactics for hiding and retreat (in the racoon dog retreat, a ninja will crouch low and halt, allowing the pursuer to collide with him at speed, whereupon the agent kills his enemy), and ways of crossing marshes and water (for example, with special shoes made of boards, or using a foldaway floating seat). The description is made all the more vivid by step-by-step photographs of the fighting techniques, diagrams outlining military tactics and beautiful samples of Japanese calligraphy. No easy day. Il racconto in prima persona dell'uccisione di Bin LadenOscar bestsellersNo easy day. Il racconto in prima persona dell'uccisione di Bin LadenNo easy dayEdizioni Mondadori Dagon H. P. Lovecraft - "Dagon" is a short story by American author H. P. Lovecraft. It was written in July 1917 and is one of the first stories that Lovecraft wrote as an adult. It was first published in the November 1919 edition of The Vagrant. Dagon was later published in Weird Tales. It is considered by many to be one of Lovecraft's most forward-looking stories. The story is the testament of a tortured, morphine-addicted man who relates an incident that occurred during his service as an officer during World War I. In the unnamed narrator's account, his cargo ship is captured by an Imperial German sea-raider in "one of the most open and least frequented parts of the broad Pacific". He escapes on a lifeboat and drifts aimlessly, south of the equator, until he eventually finds himself stranded on "a slimy expanse of hellish black mire which extended about [him] in monotonous undulations as far as [he] could see.... The region was putrid with the carcasses of decaying fish and less describable things which [he] saw protruding from the nasty mud of the unending plain." He theorizes that this area was formerly a portion of the ocean floor thrown to the surface by volcanic activity, "exposing regions which for innumerable millions of years had lain hidden under unfathomable watery depths. Famous works of the author Howard Phillips Lovecraft: At the Mountains of Madness, The Dreams in the Witch House, The Horror at Red Hook, The Shadow Out of Time, The Shadows over Innsmouth, The Alchemist, Reanimator, Ex Oblivione, Azathoth, The Call of Cthulhu, The Cats of Ulthar, The Outsider, The Picture in the House, The Shunned House, The Terrible Old Man, The Tomb, Dagon, What the Moon Brings.

One Dress, Three Weeks, Eight Countries—Zero Baggage Newly recovered from a quarter-life meltdown, Clara Bensen decided to test her comeback by signing up for an online dating account. She never expected to meet Jeff, a wildly energetic university professor with a reputation for bucking convention. They barely know each other's last names when they agree to set out on a risky travel experiment spanning eight countries and three weeks. The catch? No hotel reservations, no plans, and best of all, no baggage. Clara's story will resonate with adventurers and homebodies alike—it's at once a romance, a travelogue, and a bright modern take on the age-old questions: How do you find the courage to explore beyond your comfort zone? Can you love someone without the need for labels and commitment? Is it possible to truly leave your baggage behind?

This one-of-a-kind masterpiece is a classic of American literature. In Spoon River Anthology, Kansas-born poet and playwright Edgar Lee Masters channels the imagined voices of the deceased men, women, and children buried in a cemetery in rural Illinois. Haunting and ethereal, inspiring and unforgettable, these poems will remain etched in readers' memories.

Dubliners is a collection of picturesque short stories that paint a portrait of life in middle-class Dublin in the early 20th century. Joyce, a Dublin native, was careful to use actual locations and settings in the city, as well as language and slang in use at the time, to make the stories directly relatable to those who lived there. The collection had a rocky publication history, with the stories being initially rejected over eighteen times before being provisionally accepted by a publisher—then later rejected again, multiple times. It took Joyce nine years to finally see his stories in print, but not before seeing a printer burn all but one copy of the proofs. Today Dubliners survives as a rich example of not just literary excellence, but of what everyday life was like for average Dubliners in their day. This book is part of the Standard Ebooks project, which produces free public domain ebooks. Having promised his soul to the Devil in exchange for good fortune, Jabez Stone asks the talented lawyer Daniel Webster to get him out of the bargain. But how will that turn out? Seven stunning stories of speculative fiction by the author of A Boy and His Dog. In a post-apocalyptic world, four men and one woman are all that remain of the human race, brought to near extinction by an artificial intelligence. Programmed to wage war on behalf of its creators, the Al became self-aware and turned against humanity. The five survivors are prisoners, kept alive and subjected to brutal torture by the hateful and sadistic machine in an endless cycle of violence. This story and six more groundbreaking and inventive tales that probe the depths of mortal experience prove why Grand Master of Science Fiction Harlan Ellison has earned the many accolades to his credit and remains one of the most original voices in American literature. I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream also includes "Big Sam Was My Friend," "Eyes of Dust," "World of the Myth," "Lonelyache," Hugo Award finalist "Delusion for a Dragon Slayer," and Hugo and Nebula. Award fi

In 1967, Kathrine Switzer was the first woman to officially run what was then the all male Boston Marathon, infuriating one of the event's directors who attempted to violently eject her. In what would become an iconic sports image, Switzer escaped and finished the race. This was a watershed moment for the sport, as well as a significant event in women's history. Including updates from the 2008 Summer Olympics, the paperback edition of Marathon Woman details the life of an incredible, pioneering athlete, and the lasting effect she's had on women's sports. Switzer's energy and drive permeate the pages of this warm, witty memoir as she describes everything from the childhood events that inspired her to succeed to her big win in the 1974 New York City Marathon, and beyond.

Il re di Sicilia Leonte ha sposato Ermione, ma è convinto che il figlionascituro non sia suo bensì dell'amico d'infanzia, il re di BoemiaPolissene. Leonte ordina al cortigiano Camillo di avvelenarlo, ma questi non gliubbidisce e scappa con Polissene in Boemia. Leonte istruisce un processo peradulterio contro Ermione e fa interpel-lare l'oracolo di Delfi. Nasce intantola figlia, Perdita, e il re ordina al fido Antigono di abbandonarla su unaspiaggia deserta. L'oracolo però svela che la moglie è innocente. Ma lasituazione ormai precipita: Ermione è morta di dolore, Antigono è statodivorato da un orso, Perdita viene salvata e allevata da pastori boemi. Unavolta cresciuta, la fanciulla ama riamata il figlio del re Polissene, Florizel.I due giovani per sfuggire l'ira del re si rifugiano in Sicilia dove, allafine, con l'arrivo di Polissene, la figlia è riconosciuta e accolta con gioiadal padre Leonte, afflitto dal senso di colpa per la morte della moglieinnocente. A sancire la riconciliazione generale, al re di Sicilia vienemostrata una statua che non soltanto somiglia perfettamente a Ermione, ma èErmione.

From the #1 New York Times bestselling co-author of No Easy Day comes an insightful, inside look at the Green Berets—a legendary corps of soldiers whose exploits made military history. But now, its very identity and role as a fighting force may be forever changed. Until the war in Iraq, Special Forces were the military's counterinsurgency experts. Their specialty was going behind enemy lines and training insurgent forces. In Afghanistan, they toppled the Taliban by transforming Northern Alliance fighters into cohesive units. But since that time, Special Forces units have focused on offensive raids. With time running short, the Green Berets have now gone back to their roots. Award-winning journalist Kevin Maurer traveled with a Special Forces team in Afghanistan, finding out firsthand the inside story of the lives of this elite group of highly trained soldiers. He witnessed the intense brotherhood, the rigorous selection process, and the arduous training that makes them the best on the battlefield. Here, Maurer delivers a compelling account of modern warfare and of a fighting force that is doing everything in its power to achieve victory.

Racial and ethnic disparities in health care are known to reflect access to care and other issues that arise from differing socioeconomic conditions. There is, however, increasing evidence that even after such differences are accounted for, race and ethnicity remain significant predictors of the quality of health care received. In Unequal Treatment, a panel of experts documents this evidence and explores how persons of color experience the health care environment. The book examines how disparities in treatment may arise in health care systems and looks at aspects of the clinical encounter that may contribute to such disparities. Patients' and providers' attitudes, expectations, and behavior are analyzed. How to intervene? Unequal Treatment offers recommendations for improvements in medical care financing, allocation of care, availability of language translation, community-based care, and other arenas. The committee highlights the potential of cross-cultural education to improve provider-patient communication and offers a detailed look at how to integrate cross-cultural learning within the health professions. The book concludes with recommendations for data collection and research initiatives. Unequal Treatment will be vitally important to health care policymakers, administrators, providers, educators, and students as well as advocates for people of color.

Recounts definitive moments from the author's career as a Navy SEAL, discussing the missions that had the greatest personal meaning for him and explaining the lessons and values he hopes to pass on to the next generation.

Describes the author's childhood experiences as a Serb in the predominantly Muslim city of Goraézde during the Bosnian war, how his family managed to escape, and his encounter with the family friend who turned against them.

Follow a little girl called Isabelle and her dog, Pickle, as they travel through the four seasons in one day. Accompanied by pieces from Vivaldi's Four Seasons, this first title in a series of sound books that bring classical music to life for young children.

"The rhythm changed and the chickens came down faster and faster. Sean found it hard to catch up and they piled like corpses in the rain. As he tried to pick one up another would bounce off the back off his hand. Sometimes their legs, or shorn feet, would dig him right in the finger. It was like when you're in a fight and the guy gets a couple in." (p. 16) Most of Sean O'Grady's days are depressingly similar. He not only lives in a town he thought he would leave years ago, but he works a mindless, dead-end job in the fresh meat section at the local chicken processing plant. And as if he needed a reminder of the banality of life, the conveyor belt that flanks the wall where he works beats out a hypnotic rhythm that's inescapable: Bum-titty-bum-titty. But it isn't all bad. Fresh is the least of the gag-inducing departments in the plant and Sean's uncle Albert works alongside him. Albert and his wife, Jessie, took Sean and his brother Archie in after their mother died, and treated them as if they were their own. Sean hasn't turned out too badly either: he has steady work at the plant, a good woman as his wife, and a fine daughter. But Archie is another matter. He got started as a career criminal early on, with stints in jail for teenage joy rides and small-time drug trafficking. That escalated soon enough and Archie is in prison – again. Or so Sean thinks. One day Sean discovers that Archie is due out that very same day, and he panics. His brother had given him ?1000 to keep while he was away and Sean has spent the money. Sean is certain that if he can't get Archie's money in time, his brother will kill him. And he has good reason to believe the worst. Archie's best friend and de facto henchman has already made it known that

Sean had better be ready to hand over the cash or suffer the consequences. Sean has witnessed his brother's brutality first-hand, which confirms his conviction that any brotherly affection Archie might have for Sean won't stand in the way of him getting his money back – all of it. With the down-at-heel joie de vivre of Roddy Doyle and the wacko plottings of Irvine Welsh, Fresh is a white-knuckle ride through one forgettable day in the life of Sean O'Grady. Mark McNay's debut will leave you bowled-over and breathless and marks the arrival of a major new talent.

From J.K. Rowling, a warm, fast-paced, funny fairy tale of a fearsome monster, thrilling adventure, and hope against all odds. Once upon a time there was a tiny kingdom called Cornucopia, as rich in happiness as it was in gold, and famous for its food. From the delicate cream cheeses of Kurdsburg to the Hopes-of-Heaven pastries of Chouxville, each was so delicious that people wept with joy as they ate them. But even in this happy kingdom, a monster lurks. Legend tells of a fearsome creature living far to the north in the Marshlands... the Ickabog. Some say it breathes fire, spits poison, and roars through the mist as it carries off wayward sheep and children alike. Some say it's just a myth... And when that myth takes on a life of its own, casting a shadow over the kingdom, two children - best friends Bert and Daisy - embark on a great adventure to untangle the truth and find out where the real monster lies, bringing hope and happiness to Cornucopia once more. Featuring full color illustrations by children from across the United States and Canada, this original fairy tale from one of the world's most celebrated storytellers will captivate readers of all ages.

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