



Michael Giltz, Contributor BookFilter creator

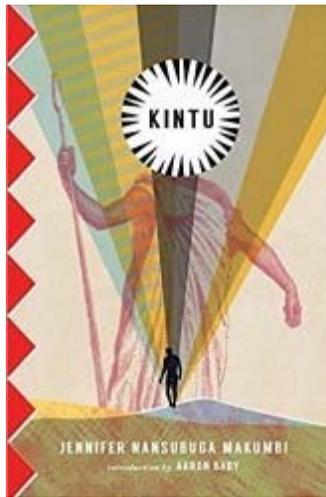
BookFilter: The Race To The Moon, The Secret Life of Doormen, The Unfinished Life Of Otis Redding & Acclaimed Debut "Kintu"

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Hey Book Lovers! Welcome to our latest Top Picks Of The Week! Oh, it's hot here in New York City. Melting sidewalk hot. What better time to lose yourself in the cool stacks of a library or putter around in the back of an independent bookstore or lie in a hammock and read, preferably with a lemonade nearby. Do they have hammocks in New York City? (Actually, the parks in Long Island City do!) Whether you're about to go to your favorite bookstore, library or online retailer, head first to BookFilter and you'll discover all the best new releases in every genre. Then let us know what you think about the newsletter and when it arrives in your box! And stay cool!

What we're reading:

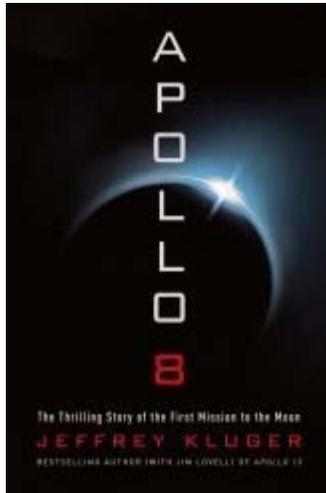
- KINTU by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi (**fiction**)
- APOLLO 8 by Jeffrey Kluger (**science, history**)
- ANNE BOLEYN, A KING'S OBSESSION by Alison Weir (**romance, fiction**)
- MY DADDY RULES THE WORLD by Hope Anita Smith (**picture books**)
- TESTIMONY by Scott Turow (**mystery/thriller**)
- OTIS REDDING: AN UNFINISHED LIFE by Jonathan Gould (**biography, pop culture**)
- THE DOORMAN'S REPOSE by Chris Raschka (**kid's books**)
- FULL WOLF MOON by Lincoln Child (**fantasy, mystery**)
- LOVE, AFRICA by Jeffrey Gettleman (**memoir, romance**)
- ON SUNSET BOULEVARD: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BILLY WILDER by Ed Sikov (**biography, pop culture**)



KINTU by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi

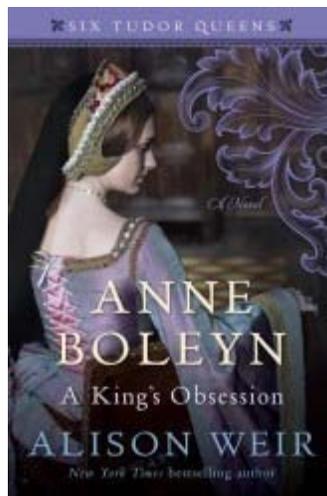
A great novel. Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi's debut is set in contemporary Uganda, beginning with a seemingly random act of violence. Then we jump back in time hundreds of years to when Kintu Kidu is a leader of his people and must journey to the capital of Baganda and pay homage to the latest ruler of the kingdom. For some 90 pages, we are enthralled by this unexpected terrain until suddenly we are wrenched back to the present. Here the cast of characters grows and grows even more and eventually we realize that a curse threatened hundreds of years ago against Kintu has taken root in the lives of all these people, who are linked by blood to one another and to Kintu back in the past. Twins and incest and sin and Western education and language and AIDS and modernity and the pull of tradition -- all of these jumble up against one another in beautiful fashion.... Read More.

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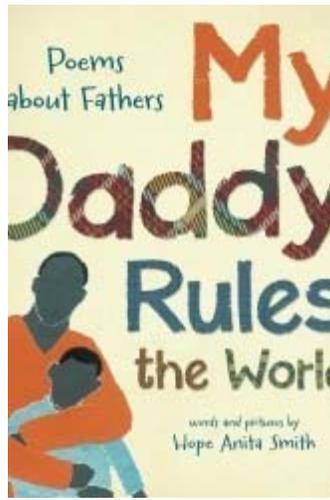
APOLLO 8 by Jeffrey Kluger

Kluger was the co-author of the nonfiction novel that became the film Apollo 13. Now he's gone back in time to tell the story of Apollo 8. In 1968, NASA was reeling from failure: their last manned mission ended in disaster with three astronauts burning to death on the launch pad, they'd had numerous technical setbacks after that and Russia was leaping ahead. So what did they do? They rolled the dice on sending men into space to orbit the moon...and planned to do it in just sixteen weeks. Apollo 8 shows how it happened and how a Christmas message from the astronauts in a lunar module lifted the spirits of a nation. We assume Tom Hanks is already working on the screenplay.... [Read More](#).[Discover 18 New Science Titles Here!](#)[Discover 12 New History Titles Here!](#)



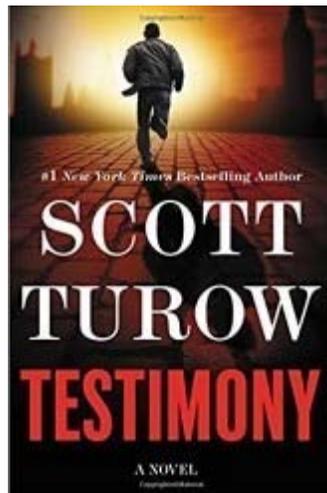
ANNE BOLEYN, A KING'S OBSESSION by Alison Weir

Best-selling writer Alison Weir made her name with a string of insightful popular histories on British history. Indeed her breakout second book was "The Six Wives Of Henry VIII" in 1991. Twenty five years after that notable success, Weir launched a more ambitious fictional approach to the same drama: she's writing one novel for each of Henry VIII's six doomed wives. Boleyn and her neck is wife number two.... [Read More](#).[Discover 8 More New Romances Here!](#)[Discover 34 New Fiction Titles Here!](#)



MY DADDY RULES THE WORLD by Hope Anita Smith

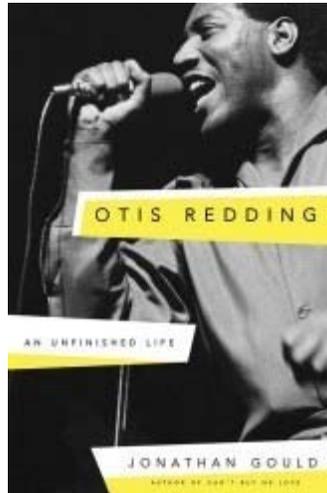
Looking for the perfect Father's Day gift a child can offer their dad? Award-winning picture book author Hope Anita Smith offers this collection of 16 poems celebrating everything from haircuts in the kitchen to wrestling matches to being told "I love you" a hundred hundred times over. The evocative folk art-inspired illustrations are also by Smith.... [Read More](#).[Discover 28 New Picture Book & Kids Titles Here!](#)[Discover 10 New Self-Help/Family Titles Here!](#)



TESTIMONY by Scott Turow

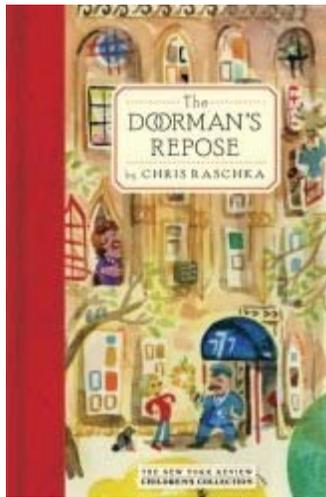
Scott Turow has written a new legal thriller. Wait, where are you going? Come back. Oh, that's all you need to know? Never mind, then.... [Read More](#).

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OTIS REDDING: AN UNFINISHED LIFE by Jonathan Gould

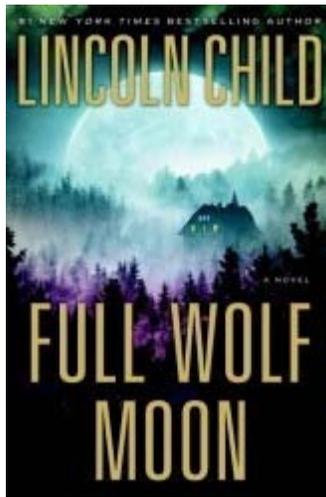
Author Jonathan Gould is not fooling around. You want to read about the brilliant, died-too-soon singer Otis Redding? Ok, but first Gould is gonna school you on how all of American music is inextricably tied up with race. He'll give a sharp, knowing rundown of the minstrel shows that swept the nation, why record labels embraced hillbilly music (ie. country) but turned its nose up at "race" records (yep, prejudice), the rise of radio stations and why a focus on r&b only happened when TV stole the attention of most households and so on. In lesser hands, this might have felt like the inevitable padding out of a life short on details (Redding was rarely interviewed, kept no journal and died at the age of 26). Not here. The book begins with Redding's monumental performance at Monterey, flashes back to the beginning and ends with his creative leap forward with the song "(Sittin' On) The Dock Of The Bay," a record so terrific it might well have hit #1 on the charts even if he hadn't died tragically in a plane crash months earlier. One can't help wondering what this artist just coming into his own might have accomplished. But Gould does full justice to what he did achieve.... [Read More](#). [Discover 24 New Biographies & Memoirs Here!](#) [Discover 12 More Pop Culture Titles Here!](#)



THE DOORMAN'S REPOSE by Chris Raschka

Do you know the publishing imprint New York Review Books? For years, their paperback reissues of obscure, forgotten or never-appreciated gems have had a magnetic pull on book lovers. Now they're doing the same with kids books. So without even glancing at the author or any other details, I simply grabbed a copy of "The Doorman's Repose" simply because it was from New York Review Children's Collection. Like others in their series, I was immediately delighted. It's an unknown treat (unknown to me, at least) about the people living in a New York City building and the doorman who works there. (He's very good despite being the rare doorman who has no interest in sports and can't chat knowledgeably about batting orders and the like.) What a pleasure -- you get stories about the building eccentric, kids, old people, the family of mice who swap homes with country mice every summer, the inevitable nosy neighbor who finds pleasure in bossing others around, the city law that requires every large apartment building to have at least one opera singer in residence, a finicky boiler and so on. Each tale was a treat, an innocent reminder of...wait, what? The internet? How could some kid's book from the 1950s or 1970s or 1920s or whenever this first came out reference the internet? Dear God, this book is by Chris Raschka and it's brand new! Can one pay a higher compliment to a book of this sort than to say you believed without a shadow of a doubt it was a long-lost classic that had simply escaped your attention? So consider this a future classic..... [Read More.](#)

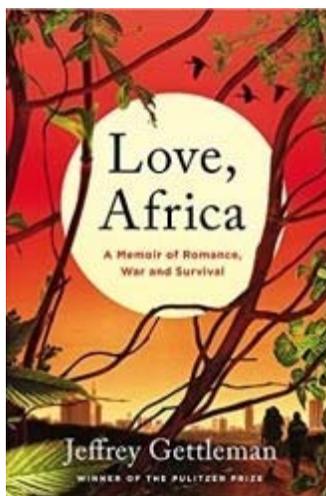
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FULL WOLF MOON by Lincoln Child

Did you watch every episode of The X-Files reboot, even though you knew it wasn't really going to match the original? Well, never fear. It's coming back again and this time they'll probably stop stressing and get it right. But for fans of The X-Files who aren't familiar with him, prolific best-selling author Lincoln Child has a series right up their alley. Its hero is Jeremy Logan, an enigmologist who specializes in tackling the supernatural. Like the distaff member of The X-Files, he doesn't really believe in the paranormal but keeps stumbling across it -- or at least something that defies easy explanation. This time he's in the Adirondacks when a body is found mauled by a hard to identify creature. Logan is dragooned into helping, even as the locals start whispering about werewolves. Werewolves? Nahhh.... [Read More.](#)

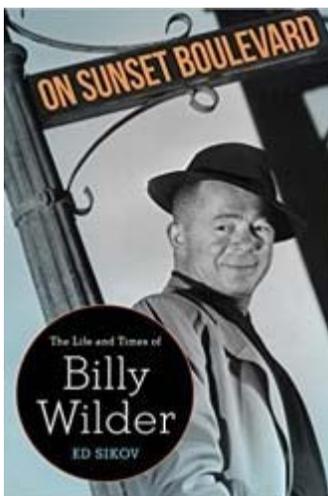
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LOVE, AFRICA by Jeffrey Gettleman

Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporter opens up about his early career in this new memoir that tells of a very unlikely long distance romance. At 19 years of age, he fell in love with Africa...and a woman back in America devoted to criminal law. For a decade he was torn back and forth between these two worlds -- between love of a continent whose story needed to be told and love of a woman who had her own challenging and satisfying life as a criminal lawyer in the US. Apparently, even journalists have hearts!.... [Read More.](#)

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[ON SUNSET BOULEVARD: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BILLY WILDER](#) by Ed Sikov

A friend of BookFilter, acclaimed film historian Ed Sikov's masterpiece has finally been reissued in paperback. A best-seller on its release, this biography of filmmaker Billy Wilder captures the life of the man, his film work and Hollywood's golden age when emigres fleeing the looming war in Europe lifted the studio system to new heights of sophistication and wit. It's widely recognized as the best book on one of Hollywood's best directors. What a list of great films Wilder created: the dark classic "Double Indemnity," that scathing valentine to cinema "Sunset Boulevard," the light romance of "Sabrina," and that unique romance/satire/critique of corporate America that is "The Apartment," to name a few. (That only scratches the surface.) Sikov is great on the movies (naturally, for he's also written books on screwball comedy, bios of Bette Davis and Peter Sellers and more). But he's also good on Wilder the person; Sikov is able to untangle the many fanciful tales that Wilder spun to nail down the details of his life. Wilder fled Nazi Germany just as Hitler took power and he became as American as apple pie with his jaundiced take on the world that still, somehow, understood that facing up to reality was more hopeful and romantic and inspiring than pretending everything was alright..... [Read More.](#)

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