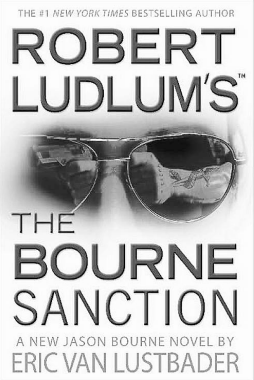


Sandy Mahaffey is the editor of the Books page. She may be reached at 374-5403 or via e-mail at smahaffey@freelancestar.com.

BEST-SELLERS

HARDCOVER FICTION

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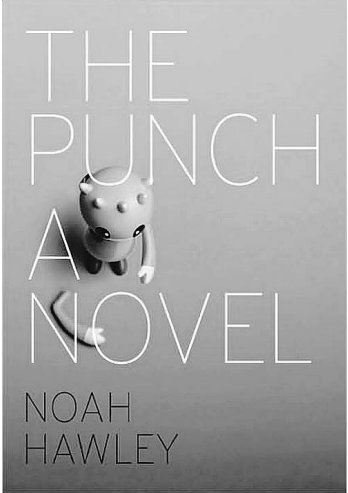
THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR
ROBERT LUDLUM'S™
THE
BOURNE SANCTION
A NEW JASON BOURNE NOVEL BY
ERIC VAN LUSTBADER
- 1. Moscow Rules.** Daniel Silva. Putnam, \$26.95. Last Week: 1; Weeks on List: 2
- 2. The Host.** Stephenie Meyer. Little, Brown, \$25.99. Last Week: 2; Weeks on List: 13
- 3. Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Sanction.** Eric Van Lustbader. Grand Central, \$25.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 4. Tribute.** Nora Roberts. Putnam, \$26.95. Last Week: 3; Weeks on List: 4
- 5. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.** Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows. Dial, \$22. Weeks on List: 1
- 6. The Story of Edgar Sawtelle.** David Wroblewski. Ecco, \$25.95. Last Week: 4; Weeks on List: 7
- 7. The Last Patriot.** Brad Thor. Atria, \$26. Last Week: 5; Weeks on List: 5
- 8. The Lace Reader.** Brunonia Barry. Morrow, \$24.95. Weeks on List: 1
- 9. Sail.** James Patterson and Howard Roughan. Little, Brown, \$27.99. Last Week: 7; Weeks on List: 8
- 10. Chasing Harry Winston.** Lauren Weisberger. Simon & Schuster, \$25.95. Last Week: 9; Weeks on List: 9
- 11. Fearless Fourteen.** Janet Evanovich. St. Martin's, \$27.95. Last Week: 8; Weeks on List: 7
- 12. Star Wars: The Clone Wars.** Karen Traviss. Del Rey, \$20. Weeks on List: 1
- 13. Love the One You're With.** Emily Giffin. St. Martin's, \$24.95. Last Week: 14; Weeks on List: 12
- 14. Fractured.** Karin Slaughter. Delacorte, \$25. Weeks on List: 1
- 15. Just Too Good to Be True.** E. Lynn Harris. Doubleday, \$24.95. Last Week: 12; Weeks on List: 3

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

- 1. The Last Lecture.** Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow. Hyperion, \$21.95. Last Week: 1; Weeks on List: 17
- 2. The Secret.** Rhonda Byrne. Atria/Beyond Words, \$23.95. Last Week: 3; Weeks on List: 83
- 3. When You Are Engulfed in Flames.** David Sedaris. Little, Brown, \$25.99. Last Week: 2; Weeks on List: 9
- 4. The Obama Nation.** Jerome R. Corsi. Threshold, \$28. Weeks on List: 1
- 5. Stori Telling.** Tori Spelling. Simon Spotlight Entertainment, \$24.95. Last Week: 10; Weeks on List: 9
- 6. Just Who Will You Be?** Maria Shriver. Hyperion, \$14.95. Weeks on List: 11
- 7. Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea.** Chelsea Handler. Simon Spotlight Entertainment, \$24.95. Last Week: 6; Weeks on List: 15
- 8. Life with My Sister Madonna.** Christopher Ciccone. Simon Spotlight Ent., \$26. Last Week: 5; Weeks on List: 3
- 9. You: Staying Young.** Michael F. Roizen, M.D., & Mehmet C. Oz, M.D. Free Press, \$26. Last Week: 4; Weeks on List: 23
- 10. The Dark Side.** Jane Mayer. Doubleday, \$27.50. Last Week: 8; Weeks on List: 3
- 11. Deceptively Delicious.** Jessica Seinfeld. Collins, \$24.95. Last Week: 7; Weeks on List: 23
- 12. Fleeced.** Dick Morris & Eileen McGann. Harper, \$26.95. Last Week: 9; Weeks on List: 6
- 13. What Happened.** Scott McClellan. PublicAffairs, \$27.95. Last Week: 11; Weeks on List: 10
- 14. The Monster of Florence.** Douglas Preston & Mario Spezi. Grand Central, \$25.99. Last Week: 12; Weeks on List: 8
- 15. Havana Nocturne.** T.J. English. Morrow, \$27.95. Last Week: 14; Weeks on List: 2

PAPERBACKS

- 1. Playing for Pizza.** John Grisham. Dell, \$7.99. Last Week: 1; Weeks on List: 2
- 2. Turbulent Sea.** Christine Feehan. Jove, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 3. Cry Wolf.** Patricia Briggs. Ace, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 4. Play Dirty.** Sandra Brown. Pocket, \$9.99. Last Week: 2; Weeks on List: 2
- 5. You've Been Warned.** James Patterson & Howard Roughan. Vision, \$9.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 6. The Manning Brides.** Debbie Macomber. Mira, \$7.99. Last Week: 15; Weeks on List: 2
- 7. Left to Die.** Lisa Jackson. Zebra, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 8. The Sanctuary.** Raymond Khoury. Signet, \$9.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 9. Nights in Rodanthe.** Nicholas Sparks. Grand Central, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 10. Sweet Spot.** Susan Mallery. HQN, \$6.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 11. Cutting Loose.** Susan Andersen. HQN, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 12. The Bone Garden.** Tess Gerritsen. Ballantine, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 13. Never Romance a Rake.** Liz Carlyle. Pocket, \$7.99. Last Week: 5; Weeks on List: 2
- 14. Some Like It Wicked.** Teresa Medeiros. Avon, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 15. Before the Scandal.** Suzanne Enoch. Avon, \$6.99. Weeks on List: 1
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'PUNCH'-DRUNK LOVE ENDURES

FAMILY WITH ISSUES BURIES A MEMBER, MOVES HALTINGLY TOWARD FUTURE

BY ASHLEY MESSENGER
FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

JOE HENRY is dead, and his very messed-up family is determined to make a cross-country trip to set free his ashes off the coast of Maine. That's the premise of this wonderful, page-turning novel, "The Punch."

The story starts by introducing Joe's two sons and wife. The older son, David, is a bigamist. He lives in L.A. with his wife and children, hiding the fact that he has a second wife and baby in New York. He hadn't meant to commit bigamy, he'd wanted to have an affair.

David takes on all the responsibilities of adulthood and will cope with whatever unpleasantness comes along, but can't seem to take responsibility for his own actions, choices and life.

Scott, the younger son, is no better off. He desperately seeks love, having been deprived of it in childhood, but rather than develop a stable, mature relationship, he gets involved with a series of floozies. His type tends to be blonde and busty, often a stripper, generally promiscuous, and kind of crazy. Unlike his brother, he seems to have no coping skills whatsoever and can't handle even the slightest bit of responsibility or pressure.

Their mother, Doris, is an alcoholic, who has merlot for breakfast. She has terrible judgment (for example, taking in a total stranger as a boarder and giving him access to her bank account information), and doesn't seem to care much about her sons' needs.

This family is completely dysfunctional, and one can expect nothing but disaster for the rest of the novel.

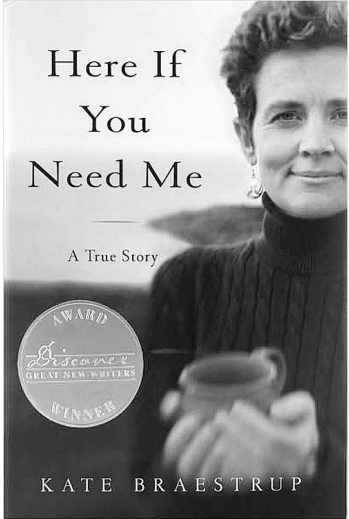
Disaster surely ensues, but Noah Hawley has not written a typical wallow-in-misery story. Instead, he asks big questions about the meaning of our lives, the nature of time, how God works and whether we can expect or predict the big events that provoke changes in our behavior. Hawley writes with humor and charm, so that despite the characters' gross flaws, they are imbued with the most sympathetic kind of humanity. He captures the saddest aspects of familial relations with funny lines, noting, for example, on several occasions that the two brothers can simply exchange a look that contains an entire conversation.

He also writes with an earnestness about redemption. Although each character has failed in some significant ways, each character will also succeed at something, giving rise to some hope that they can turn their life around.

And even though David punches Scott in the nose at the story's climax (the punch that gives this novel its title), you already know that it had to happen, and that good can come from bad.

Ashley Messenger is a freelance writer living in Stafford County.

THE PUNCH
By Noah Hawley
(Chronicle, \$23.95)



MEMOIRIST MINISTERS TO SEARCH & RESCUERS

IN WAKE OF HUSBAND'S DEATH, SHE BECOMES CHAPLAIN FOR MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

BY KURT RABIN
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

HAVE YOU EVER finished a book, then felt like telling the next person you ran into that they just had to read it?

That's similar to the feeling I had when I got done reading Kate Braestrup's memoir, "Here If You Need Me: A True Story," a book that can move you from laughter to tears in a single paragraph.

Instead, I wanted to run up to the nearest book group and implore it to make its next selection this heartrending, yet often funny story of a woman's journey from grief to faith and, ultimately, happiness in the wake of her husband's death.

The author's husband, a Maine state trooper who was studying for the ministry, died in a car crash. Braestrup describes her own grief and that of her four children:

"If you ask the children what they remember about the first six months after their father's death, they will probably say something like, We cried a lot. 'We discovered that you can carry on a conversation and cry at the same time. You can cry while vacuuming the living room. You can cry while ordering pizza over the telephone, although the conversation is longer and more confused than it otherwise would be and you sometimes get a topping you dislike.'"

Braestrup ends up pursuing her own dream of becoming a minister, and is appointed the chaplain to the search-and-rescue workers of the Maine Warden Service, under whose auspices she ministers to accident victims and their families, and to the wardens themselves.

After Game Warden Frank Gibney recovers a girl's drowned body, Braestrup and the warden sit in their truck sipping coffee:

"The death of the little girl with the red mittens is not God's will or plan. It is physics and biology, the bearing capacity of frozen water, the point at which hypothermia causes a small body's systems to fail. . . ."

"The thing is . . . ' Frank said, then stopped.

Together we looked out through the windshield. . . . 'The thing is, I don't know what I would do if one of my girlies was killed,' he says at last. 'I'm too old. I don't think I could stand it.'"

Frank has two granddaughters, ages 6 and 8. Red is a common color for a child's pair of mittens. I move my hand over toward Frank. . . .

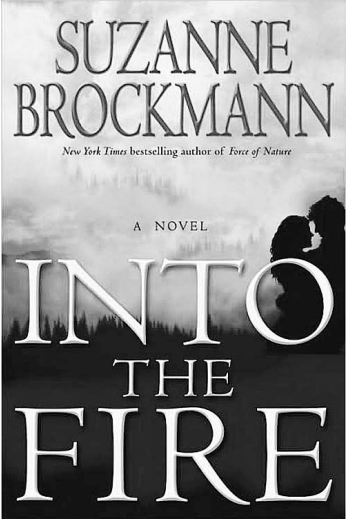
'It would be hard,' I say. He nods, stares out the window. 'I couldn't bear it.' 'People would help you,' I tell him.

He knows it's true. We, ourselves, are proof of that."

Have you ever read a book that made you want to quote it in its entirety? Here it is.

Kurt Rabin is a copy editor at The Free Lance-Star.

HERE IF YOU NEED ME
A True Story
By Kate Braestrup
(Back Bay, \$13.99)



ELITE FIRM CAN'T STAY OUT OF TROUBLE

TROUBLESHOOTERS INC. FOLKS ARE BACK, BUT THEY'VE GOT PROBLEMS OF THEIR OWN NOW

BY LAURA L. HUTCHISON
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

THE GANG from elite security firm Trouleshooters Incorporated is back in Suzanne Brockmann's "Into the Fire," and several of their own are in trouble.

Jim Nash is acting weird, disappearing, then showing up with a variety of wounds and injuries.

Vinh Murphy has been in a drunken or drug-induced stupor since his wife, Angelina, was caught in the cross-fire and killed in what should have been a routine assignment guarding a celebrity.

Hannah Whitfield, a former cop, is dealing with deafness, mourning the death of her best friend, Angelina, and worrying about Murph.

When he shows up at her cabin, after six months of being who knows where, he's a suspect in the death of Tim Ebersole, the leader of the neo-Nazi Freedom Network, whose hate-filled speech Murphy believes resulted in Angelina's death.

And the bad thing is, Murphy isn't sure he isn't responsible for the murder.

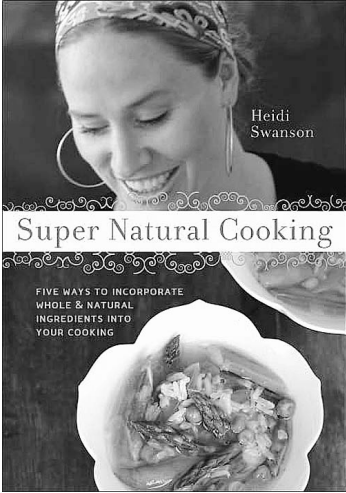
So he and Hannah set out to try to find answers. Their quest will put every member of Trouleshooters Incorporated in danger, and there may be collateral damage, as well.

Brockmann's TS gang and their friends from Navy SEAL Team 16 are a group of great characters, with dark backgrounds, intense personalities and troubled souls.

Her writing is fast-paced with lots of story lines woven together to terrific effect.

Laura L. Hutchison is an editor at The Free Lance-Star.

INTO THE FIRE
By Suzanne Brockmann
(Ballantine Books, \$25)



NOT YOUR FATHER'S 'SWANSON' DINNER

COOKBOOK STRESSES NATURAL WAY OF STOCKING, COOKING FLAVORFUL FOOD

BY EMILY BATTLE
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

HEIDI SWANSON wants to remake your pantry.

At the beginning of her book, "Super Natural Cooking," she calls the refined flours and sugars in most American kitchens an opportunity for improvement.

"Before these products made their way into your house or apartment, many were showered with agricultural chemicals, treated with chemical solvents, and stripped of most of their vitamins, minerals, fiber and flavor," Swanson writes.

Swanson is a San Francisco-based food writer, photographer and graphic designer who maintains an online journal of her recipes at 101cookbooks.com.

If you're a fan of the work authors like Michael Pollan have been doing to warn us off strange manmade ingredients and get us eating real food again, you should look to Swanson's book as the next step: how to put those foods on your table in an appetizing way.

The photography that illustrates her book is enough to make you want to go out and buy a 5-pound bag of quinoa and get to work. Swanson makes whole foods beautiful, and pulls them away from the hippy-granola rap they've been stuck with.

I sampled Swanson's "Grain-ola" and shredded green beans recipes, both of which surprised me with their unique flavors.

This book will earn its place on your kitchen shelf with its recipes and tips on working healthier ingredients into your pantry.

Emily Battle is a reporter for The Free Lance-Star

SUPER NATURAL COOKING
By Heidi Swanson
(Celestial Arts, \$20)

LOTS OF HORSEPOWER HERE

'GREAT HORSE' TAKES RIDER ON TRIP THROUGH HISTORY

BY LAURA L. HUTCHISON
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

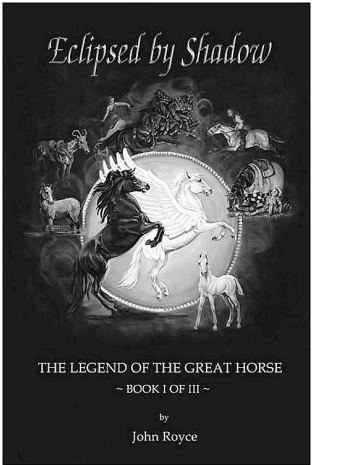
MEGAN ROBERTS names the foal born on the summer solstice, June 21, 2001, Promise.

The horse is unique in many ways. But when an old woman tells Megan and her mother that Promise may be the latest in a long line of "Great Horses," they doubt the old woman's sanity.

But Megan soon finds the woman's tales to be true, as she is transported back through history.

She finds herself in the days of cave men, who slaughtered horses for food. Then she winds up in Rome, where horses are brutally used in chariot races. She finally finds herself riding with Genghis Khan and his raiders, then with the knights of the Crusades.

Author John Royce promises that "Eclipsed by Shadow" is the first in a trilogy of books about



the Great Horse.

Though there is some graphic violence, there's also a good read within its pages. Young adults will learn about how horses have been used throughout the ages and a good bit of world history.

They'll also find themselves engrossed in Megan's adventures.

Laura L. Hutchison is an editor at The Free Lance-Star.

ECLIPSED BY SHADOW
By John Royce
(Micron Press, \$22.95)