

## A woman's perspective

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Books by women, for women and about women – they're everywhere in the publishing world. C'mon, guys, don't be afraid to look.

- "For the Love of Aimee" by Julie Riera Matsushima (Emerald, \$15.95, 235 pages): In 1997, the author (who lives in San Jose) learned that her newborn granddaughter had irreparable brain damage. This moving memoir recounts Matsushima's perseverance in seeking medical help for Aimee, and the special bond formed between them as they experienced hope and despair over the years. In 2001, Matsushima founded the That's Amore Charitable Foundation ([www.thatsamorefoundation.com](http://www.thatsamorefoundation.com)) to serve children with special needs. Her website is [www.juliematsu.com](http://www.juliematsu.com).
- "Marry Him" by Lori Gottlieb (Dutton, \$25.95, 336 pages): Approaching 40 and still looking for Mr. Right, it occurred to the author that perhaps her dating habits and those of women around her could stand a closer look. After consulting with sociologists and scientists, she offers her newfound wisdom.
- "Women Know Everything," edited by Karen Weekes (Quirk, \$16.95, 480 pages): This compilation of "3,241 quips, quotes and brilliant remarks" from women throughout history confirms once and for all which is the stronger sex.
- "Live and Let Love," edited by Andrea Buchanan (Gallery, \$24, 288 pages): A

quick education is guaranteed from these essays on love – and its fallout – by 26 women of disparate backgrounds.

- "Pink Boots and a Machete" by Mireya Mayor (National Geographic, \$26, 304 pages): The former NFL cheerleader transformed herself into a field scientist whose exploits read like adventure fiction. She's the host of Nat Geo Wild, a cable channel that specializes in wildlife and natural history programming.
- "Highland Master" by Amanda Scott (Forever, \$7.99, 400 pages): The Folsom-based historical romance writer delivers the first book in her planned "Scottish Knights" trilogy. Look for passion, swordplay and exemplary research of the era.
- "Scandalous Women" by Elizabeth Kerri Mahon (Perigree, \$15, 320 pages): Contemporary women can take a cue from free spirits from history, including Cleopatra, Anne Boleyn, Mata Hari and Amelia Earhart.
- "The Tin Ticket" by Deborah J. Swiss (Berkley, \$24.95, 352 pages): The detailed account reveals the horrific practice of the 19th century British legal system of sending female petty criminals to exile in Australia. There, "they forged a society that treated women as equals and led the world in women's rights."

### **Thrills times three**

Thrillers continue their long domination of best-seller lists, and why not? Here are three that struck our fancy, one of them on bookshelves now, the other two upcoming.

- "The Terror of Living" by Urban Waite (Little, Brown, \$24.99, 320 pages): A drug deal gone wrong, a determined deputy, a running man, a psycho killer. Don't forget compelling dialogue, well-developed characters, the Pacific

Northwest as backdrop and a relatively happy ending. Booklist calls it "an outstanding debut."

- "Night Vision" by Randy Wayne White (Putnam, \$25.95, 368 pages; on sale Tuesday): In the 18th Doc Ford thriller, the marine biologist-black ops expert and his pals save a young Guatemalan girl from a Mexican gang, battle drug dealers and confront a hungry alligator. White, who has appeared for the Bee Book Club, will be at the M Is for Mystery event in San Mateo at 7 p.m. March 7. For details: (650) 401-8077.

- "When the Thrill Is Gone" by Walter Mosley (Riverhead, 368 pages, \$26.95; March 8): Mosley left his popular Easy Rawlins series a few years ago to introduce a new character, Leonid McGill, an ex-boxer who's now a New York City PI. In the third series entry, McGill must deal with deceitful clients and determined assassins. Mosley appeared for the Bee Book Club last April.

### **Feeling numismatic?**

Just in time for Presidents Day comes "**Quarterama**" by Garrett Burke (Sunbelt, \$50). This hands-on, fabulously illustrated gift book presents informative, behind-the-scenes stories of the U.S. Mint's "50 State Quarters" program. It includes a built-in album for collecting all 50 quarters, minted between 1999 and 2009.

Burke's design for the California state quarter was selected over 10,000 other entries. It depicts naturalist John Muir viewing Half Dome in Yosemite Valley as a condor soars overhead. This title is a must-have for coin collectors and students from elementary school through high school.

