

**Marci Crossan**

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**Subject:** PW Daily for Booksellers (Tuesday, February 3, 2004)



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**Tuesday, February 3, 2004**

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*"I wanted to do regular people because they talk about regular things and they're the ones really struggling."--author Charlie LeDuff*

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### **Borders Proposes \$2.2m 'Overtime' Settlement**

A class-action lawsuit by two former assistant managers of Borders stores in California charging that the retailer should have paid them overtime has been tentatively settled. The bookseller has agreed to pay \$2.2 million to approximately 600 former assistant managers who worked in California Borders stores from April 10, 1996 to March 18, 2001. In the proposed settlement Borders agreed to pay the disputed overtime pay plus penalties and interest, attorneys' fees, costs and administrative fees.

The settlement is subject to court approval and would result in a fourth-quarter charge to the company's earnings. The non-operating, after-tax charge will be \$2.2 million or \$0.03 per share.

In the complaint, the former assistant managers asserted that since they spent more than 50% of their time working at tasks they considered not managerial, they were entitled to overtime. Borders contended that because their job titles were "assistant managers," they were exempt from overtime,

no matter what duties they performed.

The assistant manager position was eliminated in 2001 during a reorganization of job titles throughout the company's stores.

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In other company news, Borders has let go of 20 workers in the IT department at its Ann Arbor, Mich., headquarters, as well as 11 field management positions at Waldenbooks.

Borders spokesperson Ann Roman told *PW Daily* the IT layoffs resulted from a "shift from a build-within strategy to acquiring pre-built software."

Interestingly in its early years, Borders was well-known for its inventory control systems, which were developed in-house. In the 1980s, under the BIS name, the company provided systems to independent bookstores.

Roman added that Borders is "enhancing overall investment in IT" and continues to hire for new positions, though not in software development. One company, Retek, has indicated that it is now supplying software to Borders to "optimize merchandizing and category management processes."

The job cuts at Waldenbooks were motivated by the closing of various Waldenbooks stores in the past few months (many of them in the South), which necessitated "geographic shifting" of human resources, Roman said.

She added that Borders offers outplacement services for all employees and often tries to find replacement jobs within Borders. She pointed out that after five people were laid off last fall in the merchandising department, including a number of buyers, four found new jobs within Borders Group.--  
Edward Nawotka

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*Their own list...*

### **New to the Lists: MPBA**

The Mountains and Plains Booksellers Association has become the latest regional booksellers association to have its own Book Sense bestseller list. "The board and I have been cheerleaders for the Book Sense program and bestseller list from the get-go so we're delighted to have our own bestseller list," MPBA executive director Lisa Knudsen told *PW Daily*. The association's first Book Sense bestseller list was issued on January 12.

"The Mountains and Plains group worked really hard to get the number of reporting stores up to the point where we could create a viable list," Book Sense marketing director Mark Nichols told *PW Daily*. "And a large amount of the credit goes to Lisa Knudsen who pulled the bookstores together for this list."

"We really see the value of each region having its own bestseller list," said Knudsen. "Sometimes it's hard to get local media attention, but they usually seem very interested in working with local bookstores to be able to run a regional bestseller list that differentiates from a national list. Now that we have our own idiosyncratic regional list we have given MPBA booksellers a tool to go to their media and get more attention. I think stores can also promote their Book Sense bestseller list by noting that these lists are from books sold in stores, not just shipped from publishers."

Regional booksellers associations must have a certain minimum number of members reporting on a weekly basis for Book Sense to create a viable list. The MPBA list is based on a minimum of 40 member stores reporting.

Book Sense now has eight regional bestseller lists that cover nine out of the ten bookselling regions (Upper Midwest Booksellers Association and Great Lake Booksellers Association combined members to create a "Midwest list"). The Southern Booksellers Association is the only regional association without a bestseller list tracked through Book Sense.--Kevin Howell

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### Orringer, Skloot Among B&N Discover Finalists

The finalists for Barnes & Noble's 2003 Discover Great New Writers Awards, honoring the best works featured in the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers program during the previous year, are:

#### Fiction

1. *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali (Scribner)
2. *How to Breathe Underwater* by Julie Orringer (Knopf)
3. *What Was She Thinking?* by Zoe Heller (Holt)

#### Nonfiction

1. *A Sideways Look at Time* by Jay Griffiths (Tarcher)
2. *The Sewing Circles of Heart* by Christina Lamb (HarperCollins)
3. *In the Shadow of Memory* by Floyd Skloot (University of Nebraska Press)

Winners in each category receive \$10,000; the other two finalists receive \$1,000 each. The winners will be announced on March 3, 7:30 p.m., at Barnes & Noble's Union Square store in New York City.

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A rectangular banner with a light olive green background. The text "FIND A JOB" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. "FIND A" is in white, and "JOB" is in red. The letter "B" in "JOB" is stylized with a white outline.

### Authors on the Air: Richard Cohen, Fred Brock

Yesterday Fresh Air talked about hot air with David Denby, who continues to plug his new book, *American Sucker* (Little, Brown, \$24.95; Penguin Audiobooks abridged CD, \$32.95).

Fresh Air also spoke with photographer Rosamond Purcell, whose latest book, *Owl's Head* (Norton, \$25), focuses on a Maine junk dealer. *PW* called Purcell "an acquired taste, rather like her own taste for old books ('Victorian paper tastes dry-better, actually, than the paper used in newer books'). Still, the book haunts; 'perhaps,' as Purcell observes, 'a tea pot that holds no water is deeper than you think.' "

Yesterday Good Morning America talked shop with Ty Pennington, author of *Ty's Tricks: Home Repair Secrets Plus Cheap and Easy Projects to Transform Any Room* (Hyperion, \$19.95). *PW*'s estimate: "Pennington, the heartthrob-cum-carpenter on the Learning Channel's show *Trading Spaces*, lends a conversational tone and his signature wit to this do-it-yourself guide for everyone."

Yesterday Richard Cohen, husband of show co-host Meredith Vieira, appeared on the View to promote his new book, *Blindsided: Lifting a Life Above Illness: A Reluctant Memoir* (HarperCollins, \$23.95; HarperAudio abridged cassette, \$25.95, abridged CD, \$29.95). *PW's* account: "In 1972, when he was 25, Cohen, an up-and-coming television journalist, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a disease for which there is no cure. In this wrenching memoir, he tells how he has for the past 30 years succeeded in his determination to 'cope and to hope.' "

Yesterday Oprah walked down the studio aisle with Harriette Cole, author of *Jumping the Broom: The African-American Wedding Planner* (Holt \$19.95) and *Vows: The African-American Couples' Guide to Designing a Sacred Ceremony* (S&S, \$20).

Yesterday the Today Show juiced up with Kirk Perron, owner of the Jamba Juice smoothy and juice chain and author of *Jamba Juice Power* (Putnam, \$15.95).

Today the Early Show looked forward with Fred Brock, a *New York Times* business editor, writer of the "Seniority" column and author of *Retire on Less Than You Think: The New York Times Guide to Planning Your Financial Future* (Times Books, \$15).

On Fresh Air today, Dr. Jerome Groopman continued his hopeful plugging of *The Anatomy of Hope: How People Prevail in the Face of Illness* (Random, \$24.95; Random Audio abridged cassette, \$25).

Morning Edition today interviewed Elmore Leonard, whose latest book is *Mr. Paradise* (Morrow, \$25.95; HarperAudio unabridged cassette, \$29.95, unabridged CD, \$34.95). *PW's* vision of *Paradise*: "Fifteen years after his last Detroit novel, *Killshot*, Leonard (whose most recent effort was *Tishomingo Blues*) returns to Motor City for another exemplary crime thriller."

For a complete listing of television and radio shows and their guests--including regional NPR shows such as the [Diane Rehm Show](#) and the [Connection](#)--see **Motor Online**.

For more information on these titles, [click here](#).

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- Publishers Weekly, May 27, 2002

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### **Web's Best: Googling Stanford; Writer's Trust Awards**

For the past several months, Google.com has been working with publishers to digitize books and other printed material for browsing on the Web. Now the *New York Times* and *Library Journal* **report** that Google.com and Stanford University are in talks to digitize much of the material in Stanford's library that is no longer protected by copyright. This includes a vast collection of books and other works published before 1923.

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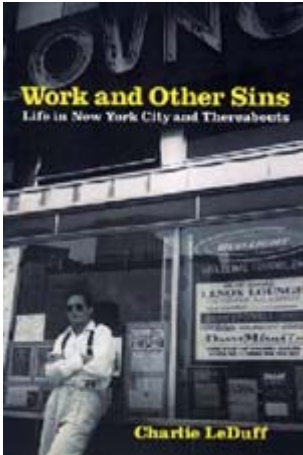
The finalists for the Writer's Trust of Canada are available for **download**. The awards offered in eight categories total C\$133,000 (about \$99,500).

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The "Bad Santa" who was found naked and stuck in a chimney at Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction/Uncle Edgar's Mystery bookstore in Minneapolis, Minn., this past Christmas has pled guilty to attempted burglary. He was sentenced to 15 months in prison. On the roof, rescuers found a screwdriver and a bolt cutter.

Court papers indicate that the defendant said he had dropped his keys down the chimney and was trying to retrieve them when he got stuck, though no keys were found in the chimney.

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All about everyman in the Big Apple...

### Charlie LeDuff on 'Hanging-Out Journalism'

"Reporters like to tell themselves that they are doing something socially and culturally important," *New York Times* reporter Charlie LeDuff writes in the introduction to his new collection of articles, *Work and Other Sins: Life in New York City and Thereabouts* (Penguin Press, \$24.95). "That's what they tell each other over free drinks at the awards ceremonies, anyway."

If you aren't familiar with LeDuff's wizened and epigrammatic articles (mostly about working-class New Yorkers), it's important to know that, despite the rebellious swagger of his sentiments about journalism as a high-minded calling, he could readily be accused of committing culturally important work. He's crossed the border from Mexico to Arizona with a group of immigrants, become a blind man navigating New York City, and worked in the world's largest slaughterhouse (an article that was part of the *Times's* Pulitzer Prize-winning series on race in America).

The fact that LeDuff steadfastly refuses to be associated with prestige journalism, even though he works for the nation's most prestigious newspaper, says everything about his style as a writer. "The truth is, we reporters are window peepers, suck-ups, people too ugly for the movies," he writes in *Work and Other Sins*. "That's what normal people say." So instead of just reporting what his subjects tell him, LeDuff puts himself in their shoes, and writes about them with verve and an unusual immediacy.

*PW Daily* contributor Claiborne Smith spoke on the phone with LeDuff, who now writes for the *Times* from Los Angeles.

*PW Daily*: In the introduction, you say you choose to write about working people, but you weren't given a "working people" beat at the *Times*, were you?

Charlie LeDuff: It's sort of who I'm attracted to, I suppose, and if [the subjects] are good and true and have something to say, then they'll go with it at the *Times*. I wanted to do regular people because they talk about regular things and they're the ones really struggling. People up at our level, it's different.

I think what I stumbled on without knowing it really--because I'm not a New Yorker, though I feel like I am one now--is that that's the New York that New York is proud of, you know? It's everyman, it's mass. It resonated not only with the editors but with the people themselves. At least I hope so; I hope I did something worthwhile with my life.

*PWD*: I think a lot of people might like to know how you get people like Black Mills, a struggling pimp, to let you hang out with them on the record.

CL: I knew a guy who knew him and I met him at a party and he was

talking and I said, "You're really interesting, man, I'd love to hang out," without really knowing the details. Back in those days when my wife and I were split apart because I was doing the New York thing for six months and she was finishing college, I had infinite amounts of time of my own. So a lot of that was on my own; it wasn't on the *New York Times's* clock. I was able to build rapport with him. That's when I realized just how much the job can seep into your life. I found myself talking with him and him having these explosions of anger, these episodic outbursts and stuff, and I was like, "Wow, man, I gotta pull out." People say to me, "What do you do for a social life?" and I say, "My job is my social life."

*PWD*: Did any of your subjects ever turn around and say, "Why are you interested in me?"

*CL*: Yeah, I remember reading the story to Mills before I turned it in. I said, "Let's get it right, let's make sure I don't get you arrested, let's check for errors." I'm reading it to him and I don't think I murdered the guy. I think I was honest and found some worth in the guy, but he looks at me and he says, "Hey Charlie, the world needs heroes, man." Meaning, "Why are you interested in me?"

The better question is, "Why are they interested in me?" Why would anybody want to give up details of their life? You let a guy in and . . . you know how life is: you are what you are and like the foreword says, you want to make yourself sound better. And eventually you don't even notice the discrepancy, so the better question is, "Why would you let me in?"

*PWD*: And did you ask him that?

*CL*: He answered it: The world needs a hero. And the article could help him--he wanted to be famous, to make a record, and I don't know, I've been blessed. It's been kind of cool.

*PWD*: How do you mean, by the job? Or?

*CL*: Okay, forget the job and the benefits and the paycheck and the platform. You got a reason to ask questions. You know sometimes in your life where you're hurting or you're confused? And you're there with an old man and you're just talking about life and the guy can really help you and not even know it. And so this wealth of knowledge and experience and knowing something about life, your curiosity in the person creates curiosity in the things that the person has done. So now I like gardening, now I like French crepes--imagine all of this.

*PWD*: I have to ask: *San Francisco* magazine is printing a story this month detailing allegations that you plagiarized nine years ago. How do you respond to that?

*CL*: Let me just say this about nine years ago. I was a student trying to find a voice and I made a mistake. Ninety-nine point nine percent of it is mine; I made a mistake and I apologized. There's nothing I can do. Would I like to take it back? I would. But hey, I made a mistake. I have to go on.

PWD: How do you describe your journalism to other people?  
Participatory? Undercover?

CL: Participatory's a good word but not mine. I call it "hanging-out journalism." There's a higher truth in that, I think, for whatever truth means. Doing this job out here now [in L.A.] I've had to do a lot of phone call stuff, a lot of political stuff, a lot of message-of-the-day stuff, a lot of flak business, a lot of spin and counterspin and what's behind the spin, and that's a noble and difficult arm of this profession. But to me there's something at times untrue about it, like "I don't know that," or "I didn't see that." I think, unless it's very serious stuff, readers tend to glaze over everything anyhow. The more precious details you have, the more [people] come alive. And so I'm not going to sell coke with you-- that's participatory journalism--but I will watch you sell coke.

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### Reviews in the News: A Full Menu

The perfect title for seasoned cooks, world travelers or armchair adventurers is *The Greatest Dishes: Around the World in 80 Recipes* by peripatetic chef Anya von Bremzen (HarperCollins, \$27.50). BookPage's Sybil Pratt calls it "a fabulous collection."

In an unusual but very convenient manner, the "edible masterpieces" are

arranged alphabetically from Apple Pie to Wiener Schnitzel, with stops for Gazpacho and Peking Duck along the way.

Von Bremzen begins each recipe with what she calls a "biography"--a brief but informative essay with the origin, historical tidbits, recipe influences and cooking tips.

Her selections may be familiar, but never ordinary. The recipe for meatballs, for example, comes not from Italy, but from Shanghai: Lion's Head Meatballs. BBQ fans will savor both Memphis Barbecued Ribs and Korean Barbecued Short Ribs. Tastes from her Russian childhood fuse with traditional New York cheesecake in Chocolate-Glazed Lemon Cheesecake. An obscure Tuscan trattoria yields Potato Gnocchi with Cauliflower Gorgonzola Sauce.

"You might quibble with some of her choices, but that won't get in the way of the utter joy and comfort of having these quintessential dishes in one wonderful cookbook," states Pratt. Eating with this global gourmet is a true treat."

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Top off those 80 dishes with 80 tantalizing, tasty and time-friendly desserts.

Executive pastry chef at Chicago restaurant Tru and host of the Food Network's series *Sweet Dreams*, Gale Gand presents simple but scrumptious goodies in *Gale Gand's Short and Sweet* (Clarkson Potter, \$27.50). The frosting on the cake is that these recipes are made with eight ingredients or less.

In addition, the book is organized into three sections: desserts that can be whipped up in 15 minutes (custardy Pumpkin Pots); 30 minutes (Peach and Polenta Upside-Down Cake); or 45 minutes (sinfully delicious Chocolate Tiramisu).

If those don't tempt you, try Cherry Clafouti, Crisp Banana and Pineapple Fritters or a Cool Raspberry-Lime Terrine.

She also encourages short cuts, e.g., using refrigerated pie crust for Pear and Apple Streusel Pie or frozen puff pastry for the Banana maple Tarte Tatin.

"The sweet life has never been easier," says Pratt.

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"Fusion cuisine isn't new. Cultures have been clashing on the battlefield and then cooperating in the kitchen for centuries," writes Irene Sax in *Epicurious*. "In her fascinating new book, Madhur Jaffrey tells of the food that resulted when Indian spices were taken from their home country to Southeast Asia, South Africa, England, Trinidad, Japan and now to America."

*From Curries to Kebabs: Recipes from the Indian Spice Trail* (Clarkson Potter, \$35) is a delight for curious minds and adventurous palates.

Jaffrey poses an intriguing question: Why are curry dishes found in so many different countries? The curry in England--where it now outsells fish and chips--is different from the curry in South Africa--where pizza is often topped with chicken tikka masala.

Jaffrey traces the origins of curry to the Indian immigrants, who brought ingredients and techniques to their new homes. Combining with local tastes and foods, a cornucopia of new curries was created.

From India, she features Hyderabadi Ground Lamb with Orange and Dry Masala Fish; from Indonesia, Sumatran Lamb Curry; Burmese Chicken-Coconut Soup from Myanmar; Lobster in Yellow Curry Sauce from Thailand; and Lamb Shanks Braised in Yogurt Sauce from Pakistan.

"This book is as much a fusion as the cuisines: a mixture of real erudition and really good eating," concludes Sax.

Bon appetit!--Judi Baxter

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### **Abebooks.com Bestseller Lists**

The following are the January bestseller lists from the North America and U.K. Web sites of Abebooks.com, the used, rare and out-of-print online bookstore.

#### Abebooks.com

1. *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom
2. *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen R. Covey
3. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier
4. *Microbiology* by Gerard Tortora
5. *Girl With a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier
6. *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* by Richard Leigh Baigent
7. *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Spencer Johnson
8. *Lean Thinking: Banish Waste & Create Wealth* by James P. Womack
9. *The Power of Now* by Tolle Eckhart
10. *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown

#### Abebooks.co.uk

1. *Collected Works* by V.I. Lenin
2. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon
3. *A History of Philosophy* by Frederick J. Copleston
4. *Touching the Void* by Joe Simpson
5. *Wisden Cricketers Almanack*
6. *Sleep No More: Railway, Canal and Other Stories of the Supernatural* by L.T.C. Rolt
7. *A History of the English Speaking Peoples* by Winston S. Churchill

8. *Memed, My Hawk* by Yashar Kemal
9. *The Beatles Anthology* by the Beatles
10. *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

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### **Rats, an Error**

Yesterday's listing of Edgar Award nominees misstated the title of one of the "best juvenile" contenders: it is *Bernie Magruder and the Bats in the Belfry* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (S&S/Atheneum), not *Bernie Magruder and the Rats in the Belfry*. In the case of this mistake, the bats in the belfry belong to the Mystery Writers of America, which supplied the information.

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