

BOOKS

BESTSELLERS

ORIGINAL FICTION

- (1) 3 The Sentimentalists, Johanna Skibsrud (Douglas & McIntyre).
- (2) 31 The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest, Stieg Larsson (Viking Canada).
- (5) 11 Fall of Giants, Ken Follett (Dutton).
- (3) 5 Full Dark, No Stars, Stephen King (Scribner).
- (-) 11 Freedom, Jonathan Franzen (HarperCollins).

ORIGINAL NON-FICTION

- (1) 7 Life, Keith Richards (Little, Brown).
- (4) 12 The Daily Show with Jon Stewart Presents Earth (The Book), (Grand Central).
- (3) 7 Tough Guy: My Life on the Edge, Bob Probert (HarperCollins).
- (2) 5 Decision Points, George W. Bush (Crown).
- (8) 27 Sh*t My Dad Says, Justin Halpern (HarperCollins).

REPRINT FICTION

- (2) 40 The Girl Who Played With Fire, Stieg Larsson (Viking Canada).
- (1) 74 The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Stieg Larsson (Penguin Canada).
- (3) 8 Lost Symbol, Dan Brown (Anchor).
- (4) 40 Sarah's Key, Tatiana de Rosnay (St. Martin's Griffin).
- (6) 2 U is for Undertow, Sue Grafton (Berkley).

REPRINT NON-FICTION

- (1) 186 Eat, Pray, Love, E. Gilbert (Penguin).
- (3) 6 Stones Into Schools, Greg Mortenson (Penguin).
- (7) 140 Three Cups of Tea, Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin (Penguin).
- (5) 240 The Glass Castle: A Memoir, Jeanette Walls (Scribner).
- (2) 8 Playing With Fire, Theo Fleury with Kirstie McLellan (HarperCollins).

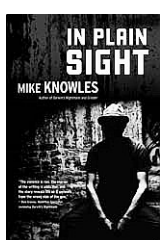
SPECIAL INTEREST

- (3) 8 Guinness World Records 2011, (Jaguar).
- (4) 3 Ripley's Believe it or Not! Special Edition, (Scholastic).
- (1) 33 The Book of Awesome, Neil Pasricha (Putnam).
- (2) 7 Barefoot Contessa, Ina Garten (Clarkson Potter).
- (5) 17 The Power, Rhonda Byrne (Atria).

NOTE: (1) = Book's position last week; 2 = Number of weeks on the list ■ Torstar News Service

CANADIAN MYSTERIES, REVIEWED BY DON GRAVES

Local author pens top thriller-noir



In Plain Sight,
by Mike Knowles
(ECW Press,
\$24.95)

Hamilton author Mike Knowles performs character analysis with a Colt 45 in his hand.

In Plain Sight is a story of three men prepared to fight, survive or die. One is a cop. Then there's Wilson, who insists he's not a master criminal: "I'm just of the bad guys. The one who doesn't get caught." And a bad guy who desperately needs to die.

The writing is cool and poised: abrupt, punchy dialogue, economical storytelling. Knowles strikes the emotional core of a setting with one, consuming burst of words.

While bodies are often just plot devices, Knowles pries open the soul of a man determined to kill who brings his victim down bit by bit, a dismemberment of body, mind and soul. It is frighteningly fascinating.

In Plain Sight comes at you like a tsunami — hard, relentless, fast. Knowles is exploring invigorating new pathways in Canadian thriller-noir writing.



In Winter's Grip,
by Brenda Chapman,
(Rendezvous Crime, \$16.95)

In Winter's Grip offers a probing exploration of how a murder destroys the emotional exterior that provide a veil of protection for those left alive — including the murderer.

The dialogue is a treat ... you feel like a third person at a table for two. Descriptions of the awesome Minnesota winter are painterly, challenging the reader with the peaceful restoration of white and the black fury of the storm.

A Canadian doctor returns to her family home in Minnesota after her father is murdered. The narcissistic double life of the man is meticulously torn down like a wall, one brick at a time. The momentum builds, the plot twists depict the crumbling walls of lies until a torrent of action races to a climax. In Winter's Grip is a gently transfixing read. Chapman writes well for both the youth and adult market. Canada needs both, along with publishers who recognize their value.



NightShade, by Tom Henighan
(Dundurn, \$11.99)

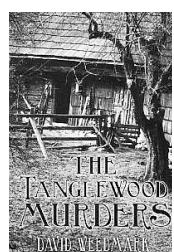
The adventures of Sam Montcalm — bedroom snooper, lone wolf journalist with an attitude toward seeking truth and aggravating just about everyone along the way — make for an entertaining read.

There's a Quebec City conference regarding the genetic manipulation of trees. Forces are at work to manipulate how beneficial or destructive this conference should be.

Local police, the RCMP and an FBI agent fail to prevent the murder of a powerful delegate.

Montcalm takes his healthy if perhaps obsessive cynicism and pursues it through each turn and twist in this fast-paced mystery until he's proven right.

The detached rigour of scientific research is exposed as a thin veneer layer to the powerful emotions of the human spirit as Montcalm steers his course to solving the crime. Good setting, buoyant plot, strong action make for a good read.



The Tanglewood Murders, by David Weedmark
(Rendezvous Crime, \$16.95)

Can escaping your unresolved present in order to return to your past enable you to hide? Will the past heal or cause more hell? Ottawa undercover operative, Ben Taylor takes a leave to work at Tanglewood Farms in southwest Ontario, where he picked grapes as a teenager. The family operation has turned into a high yield business with disposable values and bulldozed virtues. When a young woman is murdered, Taylor's past, present and potential future appear to be on a collision course.

Why do people trap themselves, yet, despite the pain, remain? Why can the murder of a young woman lead to unrelated death in the past and trigger multiple pain before the crops are harvested? And why is the act of murder just the tip of the iceberg?

Author Weedmark's powerful storytelling instincts explore the why, strongly weaving a reflection of his past writing accomplishments that foretell a dynamic future in mystery storytelling.

Don Graves' Top 10 Canadian Mysteries of 2010

(in alphabetical order)

A Brush With Death, by Elizabeth Duncan (Minotaur)

The Nesting Dolls, by Gail Bowen (McClelland & Stewart)

A Criminal to Remember, by Michael VanRooy (Ravenstone)

Arctic Blue Death, by R.J. Harlick (Rendezvous Crime)

Beautiful Lie the Dead, by Barbara Fradkin (Rendezvous Crime)

Bury Your Dead, by Louise Penny (Sphero)

In Plain Sight, by Mike Knowles (ECW Press)

Lethal Rage, by Brent Pilkey (ECW Press)

Let it Ride, by John McFetridge (Minotaur)

Never Look Away, by Linwood Barclay (Doubleday)

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Euphemania is — so to speak — a classic

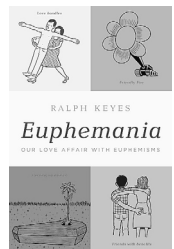
BY VICK MICKUNAS

My dictionary defines "euphemism" as: "the substitution of a mild or indirect expression for one thought to be offensive or blunt."

We all employ euphemisms, some of us more than others. They can soften verbal blows. They can help us to circle around unpleasant topics.

Ralph Keyes has taken our enduring cultural affection for employing euphemistic expressions and made it into a book that is by turns, amusing, informative and even slightly vulgar. Euphemania: Our Love Affair With Euphemisms (Little, Brown And Company, \$29.99) is a veritable smorgasbord of words that we might summon if our intent is to try to be inoffensive.

Keyes zeroes in on some conversational subjects that can make



Euphemania: Our Love Affair With Euphemisms, by Ralph Keyes
(Little, Brown, \$29.99)

us uncomfortable: sex, our bodies, our bodily functions, medical conditions, death, food, money and war. As Keyes takes us through these somewhat touchy subjects we realize why they can inspire euphemisms and why a number of them are rarely included in family newspapers.

Fortunately, there are quite a few I can mention in this review. Keyes observes that talking about money can make some people feel a bit nervous. That's because some of us don't have quite as much of it as

we might wish to have.

Keyes notices that some individuals will euphemistically describe their condition as "financially insecure" or "a little short."

His section on euphemisms for food is rather illuminating. Nobody wanted to eat Patagonian toothfish until they renamed it "Chilean sea bass." A fish called "slime head" was another slow mover until they started calling it "orange roughy."

Have you ever eaten "dolphin fish?" Perhaps you did after they began calling it "mahi mahi."

Death is another topic that we

often choose to circumnavigate.

Keyes states that "when it comes to death, the euphemistic fog becomes nearly impenetrable.

The dead are 'no longer with us!' They 'left the building.' 'Kicked the bucket.' 'Bought the farm.' They've 'gone home,' or 'south,' or 'west,' or to 'the last round-up!' They've 'laid down their burden.' They're 'pushing up daisies.'"

Then there's war, a subject so unpleasant that we might actually consider not having any more if we were forced to discuss them without resorting to euphemistic language. Keyes recounts how "civil-

ians killed by mistake in Vietnam were sometimes referred to as 'regrettable byproducts.'"

Keyes sees positives and negatives in euphemisms.

"On the one hand, they can be a source of evasion. A way to avoid topics that should be confronted, of choosing not to face unpleasant truths.

"At worst, euphemisms are employed by politicians, bureaucrats, merchants and others, as tools of manipulation. On the other hand, when used judiciously, euphemisms can civilize discourse and be a welcome form of courtesy in rude times."

Euphemania careens through hundreds of euphemisms with rambunctious zeal. Keyes has been honing his writing craft for decades. This book, his 16th, could become a classic.

Dayton Daily News

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