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NOTABLE BOOKS, 1992

This list has been compiled for use by the general reader and by librarians who work with adults. The titles have been selected by the Notable Books Council, ALA Reference and Adult Services Division, for their significant contribution to the expansion of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers. Titles were selected from books published from November 1990 through October 1991 that demonstrate wide general appeal and literary merit.

Alvarez, Julia. **How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents.**

Algonquin. Fifteen interconnected stories portray with warmth and humor the assimilation of a Dominican doctor's family into urban American culture.

Banks, Russell. **The Sweet Hereafter.** HarperCollins.

Communal bereavement unites an Adirondack village after a tragic school-bus accident.

Before Freedom Came: African-American Life in the Antebellum South. Ed. by Edward D. C. Campbell and Kym S. Rice. Univ. Press of Virginia/Museum of the Confederacy. A richly researched and illustrated compendium brings to attention previously underreported aspects of slavery in the pre Civil War South.

Bly, Carol. **The Tomcat's Wife and Other Stories.**

HarperCollins. Portrayals of Minnesota women who are bound by the narrowness of their lives and the expectations of their communities.

Brown, Larry. **Joe.** Algonquin. An abandoned youth and a

floundering middle-age man rescue each other from desperate situations in rural Mississippi.

Carles, Emilie, and Robert Destanque. **A Life of Her Own: A Countrywoman in Twentieth-Century France.** Tr.

by Avriel H. Goldberger. Rutgers. A humane and wise woman tells the poignant stories of her life in a harsh, isolated peasant community in provincial France.

Cary, Lorene. **Black Ice.** Knopf. Cary recounts with piercing honesty her experiences as a young black woman attending an elite New Hampshire boarding school in the early 1970s.

Dubus, Andre. **Broken Vessels.** Godine. An acclaimed story writer turns his attention to essays, some of which detail his physical and spiritual struggle to survive a disabling accident.

Falvdi, Susan. **Backlash: The Undeclared War against**

American Women. Crown. An eye-opening, well-researched analysis of the status of women in contemporary American society documents the antifeminist backlash of our time.

Greene, Melissa Fay. **Praying for Sheetrock.** Addison-

Wesley. The eloquent and sometimes humorous story of official corruption in McIntosh County, Georgia, and the belated political awakening of its black population.

Griffith, Patricia Browning. **The World around Midnight.**

Putnam. The beleaguered editor of a newspaper in the small town of Midnight, Texas, triumphs over adversity with irrepressible humor in Griffith's delightful novel.

Klinkenborg, Verlyn. **The Last Fine Time.** Knopf. This story

of a family-owned neighborhood bar in Buffalo, New York, beautifully combines poignant memoir and subtle social history.

Kotlowitz, Alex. **There Are No Children Here.**

Doubleday. This significant and heartbreaking account focuses on the struggle of two young boys to survive life in a Chicago housing project.

Kozol, Jonathan. **Savage Inequalities: Children in**

America's Schools. Crown. Vivid descriptions of the nation's poorest and wealthiest public schools illustrate how the quality of a child's education is determined by race and social class.

Lemann, Nicholas. **The Promised Land: The Great Black**

Migration and How It Changed America. Knopf. Absorbing narrative of the African-American migration from the newly mechanized farms in the Mississippi Delta to inner-city Chicago and of the failure of the government's war on poverty.

Levine, Philip. **What Work Is.** Knopf. The basics of life and

labor portrayed in terse, realistic, unembellished poems.

Lewis, R. W. B. **The Jameses: A Family Narrative.** Farrar.

Collective biography of a distinguished American family that included psychologist William, novelist Henry and diarist Alice, set within the framework of nineteenth-century intellectual life.

Lucas, Russell. **Evenings at Mongini's and Other Stories.**

Summit. By turns erotic, humorous, chilling and exciting, 10 short stories provide a view of Bombay, India, during the decline of the British raj.

Malone, Michael. **Foolscap.** Little, Brown. A clever,

exhilarating, comic novel about the adventures and quests of Theo Ryan, a complacent academic whose life is transformed by his friendship with a bizarre, drunken playwright.

Morris, Mary McGarry. **A Dangerous Woman.** Viking. An emotionally disturbed young woman struggles to gain control of her life in spite of traumatic experiences and rejection by friends, classmates and guardians.

Nordan, Lewis. **Music of the Swamp.** Algonquin. In this comic and haunting novel set in a poor Mississippi Delta community, a young boy's stories illuminate both magic and horror in his family's life.

Parks, Tim. **Goodness.** Grove Weidenfeld. In this tragic yet darkly humorous novel, the birth of a severely handicapped daughter forces George Crawley to rise above the pieties of his family to make a real moral choice.

Porter, Connie. **All-Bright Court.** Houghton. Steel mills near Buffalo draw black families north, and a vibrant community is established in the rapidly deteriorating housing of All-Bright Court.

Radestky, Peter. **The Invisible Invaders: The Story of the Emerging Age of Viruses.** Little, Brown. An account of scientific detection in the fight against disease reveals the genetic basis of life and emphasizes the importance of research.

Roth, Philip. **Patrimony: A True Story.** Simon & Schuster. The moving, sometimes comic memoir of novelist Roth's reconciliation with his dying, irascible father.

Tan, Amy. **The Kitchen God's Wife.** Putnam. Tan's second novel explores the dynamics of a Chinese American family through the long-suppressed secrets a mother and daughter ultimately reveal to each other.

Notable Books 1992

Item no. 13592

100 pamphlets, \$24

Also available as camera-ready sheets, \$10 per set.

ALA Graphics

American Library Association

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Many of the books on this list are available in braille, talking books or large type. Consult your Regional Library for the Blind.