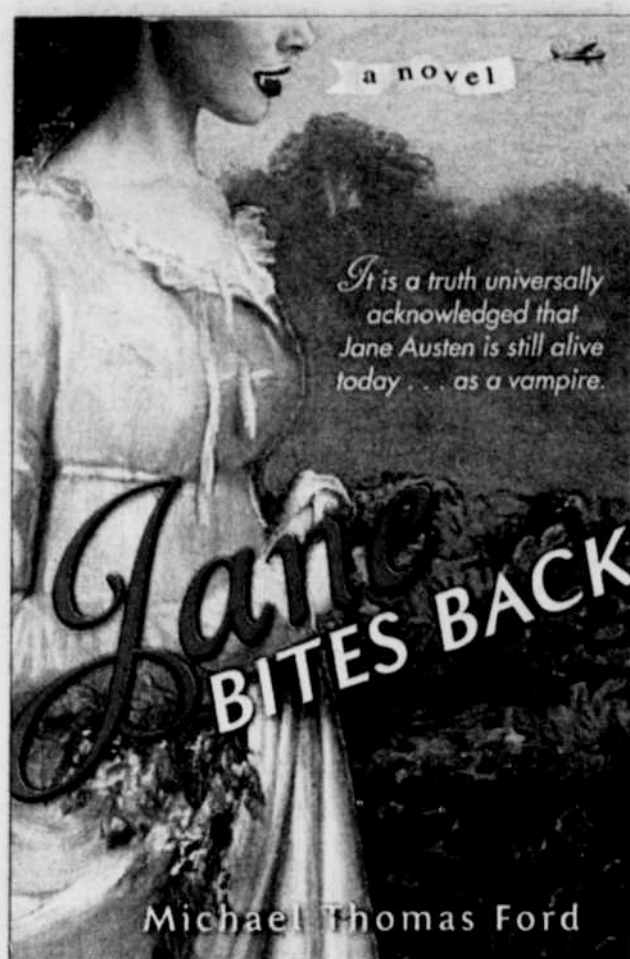




The book was published in late 2009, during the height of the vampire and Jane Austen craze. In the story, Jane is living under a different name and identity as she herself struggles to grasp her sudden resurgence in fame after her supposed death. At the same time, she's trying to reinvent herself as a 21st-century author. The irony, in spite of her popularity: She can't get her latest book published, not if her life depended on it. Good thing she's already dead.

I've always enjoyed Ford's wit and style. With *Jane Bites Back*, he's managed to create a satire within a satire—not an easy task.



Mary Mandeville,
PETLANDIA

Recently read: *Found: A Memoir* (Jennifer Lauck, Seal Press, \$24.95) and *The Chronology of Water* (Lydia Yuknavitch). Both local authors, both highly recommended.

Currently reading: *Part Wild: One Woman's Journey with a Creature Caught Between the Worlds of Wolves and Dogs* (Ceiridwen Terrill, Scribner, \$25). A Portland woman details her life with a wolf-dog hybrid. Terrill read at Wordstock; her writing is strong, the

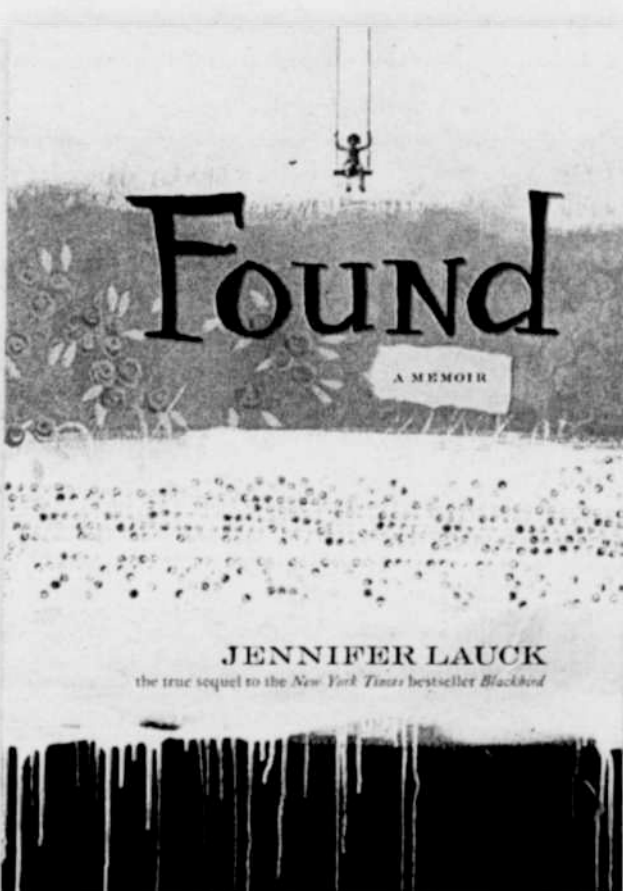
topic is intriguing. A few chapters in, I'm still engaged.

Most recommended: *Dog Years: A Memoir* (Mark Doty, Harper, \$23.95). Many dog memoirs are written but few rise above a simple "my dog (cat, bird, pig) was the best pet ever." Never resorting to sentimentality, Doty's story is candid and poetic. While his partner is dying of AIDS, Doty is left to care for the couple's dog. He adopts a second dog as a companion to the first because "there comes a time when you're already so crazy, an addition cannot be noticed." Melancholy but never saccharine, this study in loss takes us through the deaths of his partner and both dogs. Have your tissues ready, but know there is light at the end of the tunnel. Beautiful.

In the queue: *How Georgia Became O'Keeffe: Lessons on the Art of Living* (Karen Karbo, skirt!, \$21.95). Smart, witty and insightful. I look forward to reading Karbo's reflections on this iconic painter and what her life and work mean to us now.

Wild (Cheryl Strayed, coming March 2012, Knopf, \$25.95). I cannot wait to tag along on this 1,100-mile journey "from lost to found" on the Pacific Crest Trail. Honest and soulful, Strayed's trek is sure to enthrall. ☐

For more reading recommendations and holiday gift ideas, pick up the December 9 issue.



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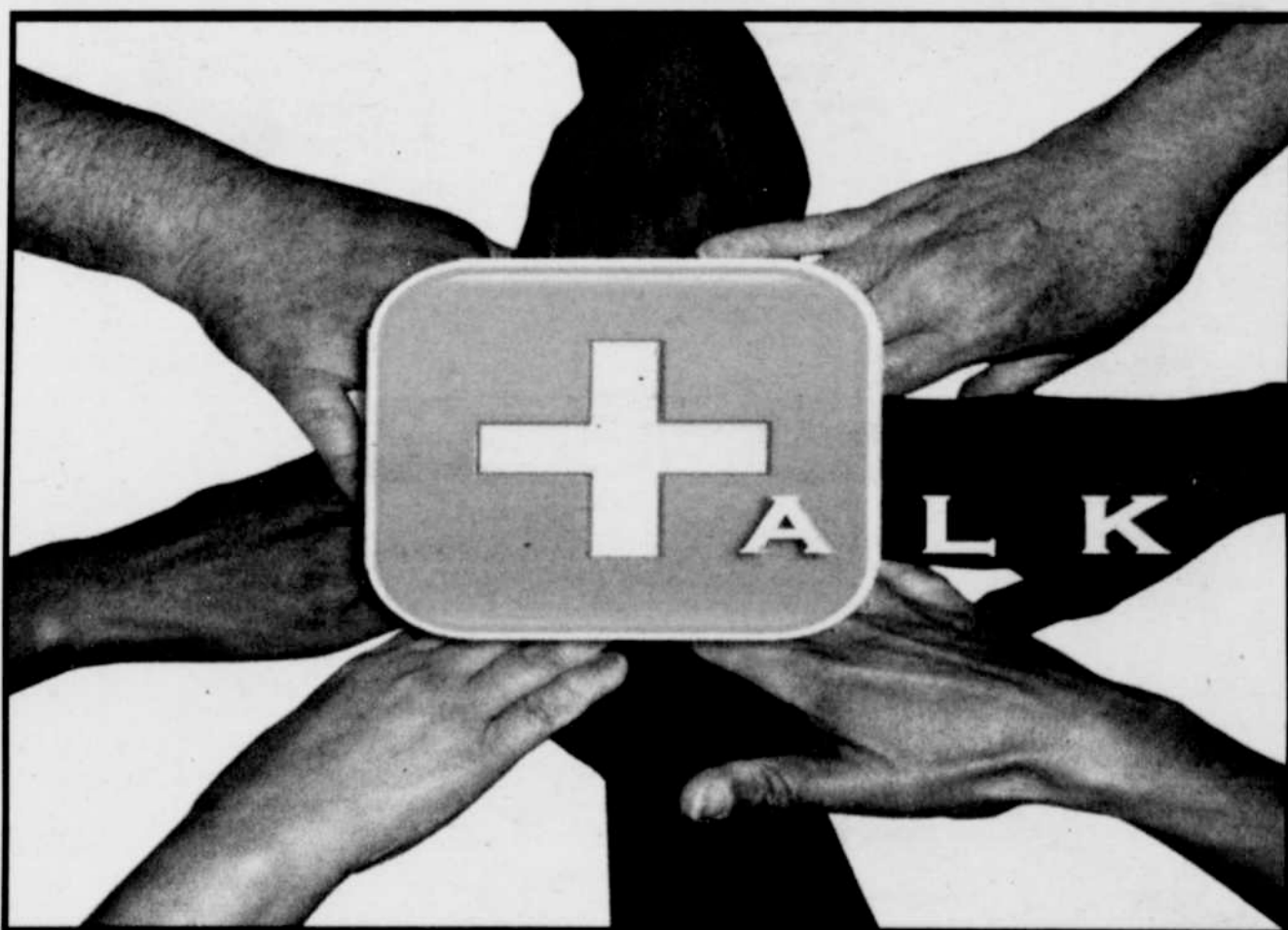
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