

IN PRINT

Aretha : From These Roots

by Aretha Franklin, David Ritz

Hardcover - 254 pages (September 1999) Villard Books #32

Unlike the soul-baring performances that have drawn listeners to her for four decades, Aretha Franklin is a bit cagey when it comes to discussing her personal life in her autobiography, *From These Roots*. The famously press-shy Aretha is a free-speaking anecdote spinner and a blunt sharer of opinions of coworkers and fellow artists. (Don't get her started on Natalie Cole.) But some



areas remain blurry; for instance, her troubled first marriage to a temperamental music-business figure named Ted White is covered in only a tiny handful of pages. Other happier memories of lovers and of her late father, the famed minister Rev. C.L. Franklin, find her in a more expansive mood. Most consistently indelible in this telling, though, is her musical story. Born in 1942, she grew up around some of the century's greatest singers—Clara Ward, Dinah Washington, and

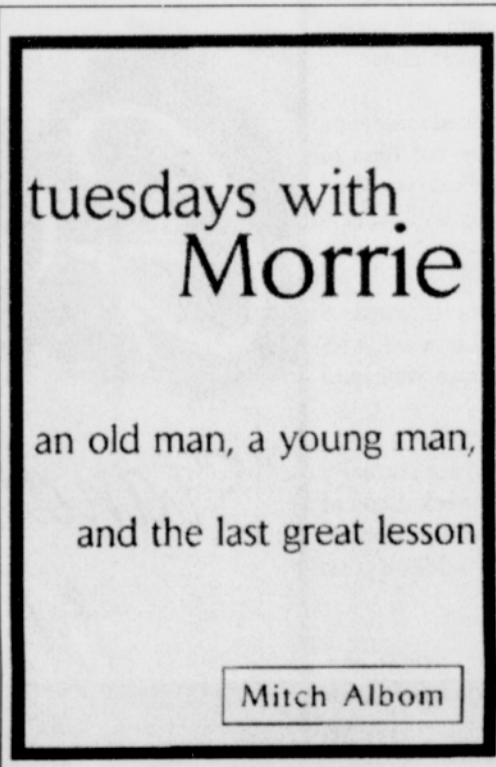
Sam Cooke were all family friends. A voice that many consider the world's finest, a strikingly

individual touch on piano, and an eclectic ear for material combined to make her a notable artist who moved quickly from the gospel circuit to Columbia Records and moderate success in a variety of contexts, from show tunes to a gritty tribute to Washington. Her reminiscences of those days, and of the conquests that followed when she moved to the forefront of the soul revolution, are still fresh. The book does make for an irresistible reflection on a woman and her art.

Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, a Young Man and the Last Great Lesson

by Mitch Albom #3
Hardcover - 192 pages (September 1997) Doubleday

This true story about the love between a spiritual mentor and his pupil has soared to the bestseller list for many reasons. For starters: it reminds us of the affection and gratitude that many of us still feel for the significant mentors of our past. It also plays out a fantasy many of us have entertained: what would it be like to look those people up again, tell them how much they meant to



us, maybe even resume the mentorship? Plus, we meet Morrie Schwartz—a one of a kind professor, whom the author describes as looking like a cross between a biblical prophet and Christmas elf. And finally we are privy to intimate moments of Morrie's final days as he lies dying from a terminal illness. Even on his deathbed, this twinkling-eyed

man manages to teach us all about living robustly and fully. Kudos to author and acclaimed sports columnist Mitch Albom for telling this universally touching story with such grace and humility.

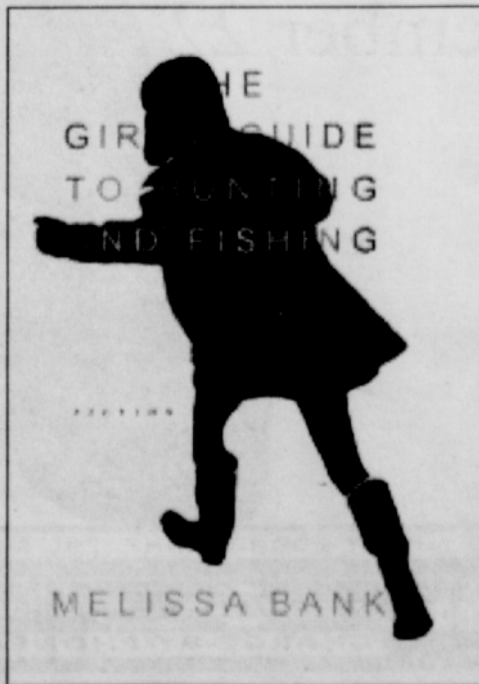
The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing

by Melissa Bank

Hardcover - 274 pages (June 1999) Viking Press

Jane Rosenal, the narrator of *The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing*, is wise beyond her years. Not that that's saying much—since none of her elders, with the exception of her father, is particularly wise. At the age of 14, Jane watches her brother and his new girlfriend, searching for clues for how to fall in love, but by the end of the summer she's trying to figure out how not to fail in love. At twice that age, Jane quickly internalizes *How to Meet and Marry Mr. Right*, even though that retro manual is ruining her chances at happiness. In the intervening years, Melissa Bank's heroine struggles at love and work. The former often

seems indistinguishable from the latter, and her experiences in book publishing inspire little in the way of affection. As Jane announces in "The Worst Thing a Suburban Girl Could Imagine": "I'd been a rising star at H— until



Mimi Howlett, the new executive editor, decided I was just the lights of an airplane." Bank's first collection has a beautiful, true arc, and all the sophistication and control her heroine could ever desire. In "The Floating House," Jane and her boyfriend, Jamie, visit his ex-girlfriend in St. Croix, and right from the start she can't stop mimicking her beautiful competitor, in a notably idiotic fashion. "I'm like one of those animals that imitates its predators to survive," she realizes—one of several thousand of Bank's ruefully funny phrases. But even as Jane clowns around, desperately trying to keep up appearances, she is so hyperaware it hurts. Again and again, the author explores the dichotomy between life as it happens and the rehearsed anecdote, the preferred outcome. In *The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing*, even suburban quiet has "nothing to do with peace." Bank's much-anticipated debut merits all its buzz and transcends it.

New York Times Bestsellers

- Hardcover Fiction
- 1 HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN, by J. K. Rowling.
 - 2 HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS, by J. K. Rowling.
 - 3 POP GOES THE WEASEL, by James Patterson.
 - 4 HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE, by J. K. Rowling.
 - 5 A WALK TO REMEMBER, by Nicholas Sparks.
 - 6 "O" IS FOR OUTLAW, by Sue Grafton.
 - 7 PERSONAL INJURIES, by Scott Turow.
 - 8 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS, by Stephen King.
 - 9 TARA ROAD, by Maeve Binchy.
 - 10 SECOND WIND, by Dick Francis.
- Paperback Fiction
- 1 HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE, by J. K. Rowling.
 - 2 THE SIMPLE TRUTH, by David Baldacci.
 - 3 TOM CLANCY'S NET FORCE: Hidden Agendas, created by Tom Clancy and Steve Pieczenik.
 - 4 BILLY STRAIGHT, by Jonathan Kellerman.
 - 5 RIVER, CROSS MY HEART, by Breena Clarke.
 - 6 RANSOM, by Julie Garwood.
 - 7 A MAN IN FULL, by Tom Wolfe.
 - 8 ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT, by Mary Higgins Clark.
 - 9 WHEN THE WIND BLOWS, by James Patterson.
 - 10 THE LOOP, by Nicholas Evans.
- Hardcover Non-Fiction
- 1 'TIS, by Frank McCourt.
 - 2 HAVE A NICE DAY! by Mick Foley.
 - 3 TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE, by Mitch Albom.
 - 4 A MAN NAMED DAVE, by Dave Pelzer.
 - 5 THE ART OF HAPPINESS, by the Dalai Lama and Howard C. Cutler.
 - 6 WHEN PRIDE STILL MATTERED, by David Maraniss.
 - 7 DUTCH, by Edmund Morris.
 - 8 *FAITH OF MY FATHERS, by John McCain with Mark Salter.
 - 9 THE NEW NEW THING, by Michael Lewis.
 - 10 THE GREATEST GENERATION, by Tom Brokaw.
- Paperback Non-Fiction
- 1 ANGELA'S ASHES, by Frank McCourt.
 - 2 BLINDMAN'S BLUFF, by Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew with Annette Lawrence Drew.
 - 3 THE SEAT OF THE SOUL, by Gary Zukav.
 - 4 A CHILD CALLED "IT," by Dave Pelzer.
 - 5 THE LOST BOY, by Dave Pelzer.
 - 6 *PERFECT MURDER, PERFECT TOWN, by Lawrence Sanders.
 - 7 A WALK IN THE WOODS, by Bill Bryson.
 - 8 THE PERFECT STORM, by Sebastian Junger.
 - 9 THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN, by Simon Winchester.
 - 10 SOURCES OF STRENGTH, by Jimmy Carter.