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FEATURED BOOKS October/November 2009

The Humbling
Everything is over for Simon Asler, the protagonist of Philip Roth's startling new book, *The Humbling* (322, HMH, 978-0-547-23969-9). One of the leading American stage actors of his generation, now in his sixties, he has lost his magic, his talent, and his assurance. His wife has gone; his audience has abandoned him, and his agent can't persuade him to attempt a comeback. Into this shattering account of self-evaluation bursts a counterplot of unusual erotic desire, a consolation for a heretofore life so risky and aberrant that it points not toward comfort and gratification but to a more shocking end. In this long day's journey into night, all the ways that we convince ourselves of our life performances – talent, love, sex, hope, energy, reputation – are stripped off in this story about the hope for renewal.

Mennonite in a Little Black Dress
Not long after Rhoda Janzen turned forty, her world turned upside down. It was bad enough that her brilliant husband of fifteen years left her for Bob, a gay he met online, but that same week a car accident left her with serious injuries. What was she to do? Rhoda went home where the conservative community welcomed her back with open arms and offered advice. Written with wit, humor and huge personality – and tackling faith, love, family, and aging – *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress* (322, Henry Holt, 978-0-805-08925-7) is an immensely moving memoir about looking homeward in order to move on in life.

Invisible
With uncompromising insight, Paul Auster takes us into the shadowy borderland between truth and memory, between authorship and identity with *Invisible* (325, Henry Holt, 978-0-805-09080-2). Three different narrators tell a coming-of-age story in this novel that travels in time from 1967 to 2007 and moves from Morningside Heights, to the Left Bank of Paris, to a remote island in the Caribbean. It is a book of youthful rage, unbridled sexual hunger, and a relentless quest for justice.

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Front page — Space across top & bottom plus box at bottom right

Back page — Use the bottom half for your copy or a mailing panel

Midwest Connection Picks

Happy: A Memoir
With honesty and unexpected humor, *Happy* (325, Scholastic, 978-1-416-50202-0) is Midwesterner Alex Lemaire's deeply moving story of his troubles with his past, his addictions, and the wreckage of his body after his first stroke at age 29, in the middle of his freshman year at MacIntyre College.

Local Flavor
Midwest Connections Picks are books of local and regional interest which we and our fellow Midwest independent booksellers recommend to you. These books often feature outstanding authors from our region, and many make great reading group choices. For more Midwest Connections Picks, visit www.midwestbooksellers.org.

Out of the Northwoods:
The Many Lives of Paul Bunyan
Michael Edmonds describes the culture of 19th century lumberjacks and how the lumber industry affected our region, shaped the country, and created the legend of Paul Bunyan in *Out of the Northwoods* (324, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 978-0-87020-497-1).

The Cougar Club
Three of a kind women, longtime friends, are smart, savvy, and part of the middle-aged "Cougar Club." Midwest author Susan M. Dwyer delivers her trademark storytelling with style, sex, and humor in her new novel, *The Cougar Club* (311, 99, Avon, 978-0-061-77128-2).

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Middle two pages — Contain common blurbs with more co-op

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How others put their newsletters to work...

- Distribute through neighboring businesses, at the library, tourist info center, hotels and B&Bs, etc.
- Insert in local newspaper to targeted neighborhoods
- Insert in every out-bound customer shipment
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2010 Schedule

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