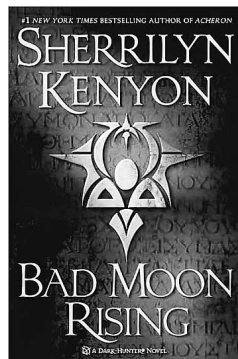


Sandy Mahaffey is the editor of the Books page. She may be reached at 374-5403 or via e-mail at smahaffey@freelancestar.com.

BEST-SELLERS

HARDCOVER FICTION



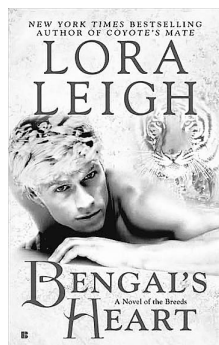
- 1. Bad Moon Rising.** Sherrilyn Kenyon. St. Martin's, \$24.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 2. That Old Cape Magic.** Richard Russo. Knopf, \$25.95. Weeks on List: 1
- 3. The Girl Who Played With Fire.** Stieg Larsson. Knopf, \$25.95. Last Week: 1; Weeks on List: 2
- 4. Best Friends Forever.** Jennifer Weiner. Atria, \$26.99. Last Week: 3; Weeks on List: 4

- 5. The Help.** Kathryn Stockett. Putnam/Amy Einhorn, \$24.95. Last Week: 4; Weeks on List: 10
- 6. Inherent Vice.** Thomas Pynchon. Penguin Press, \$27.95. Weeks on List: 1
- 7. Swimsuit.** James Patterson & Maxine Paetro. Little, Brown, \$27.99. Last Week: 5; Weeks on List: 6
- 8. The Defector.** Daniel Silva. Putnam, \$26.95. Last Week: 2; Weeks on List: 3
- 9. The Traffickers.** W.E.B. Griffin & William E. Butterworth IV. Putnam, \$26.95. Weeks on List: 1
- 10. Twenties Girl.** Sophie Kinsella. Dial, \$26. Last Week: 6; Weeks on List: 3
- 11. Dead and Gone.** Charlene Harris. Ace, \$25.95. Last Week: 10; Weeks on List: 14
- 12. Rules of Vengeance.** Christopher Reich. Doubleday, \$26. Weeks on List: 1
- 13. Black Hills.** Nora Roberts. Putnam, \$26.95. Last Week: 8; Weeks on List: 5
- 14. Finger Lickin' Fifteen.** Janet Evanovich. St. Martin's, \$27.95. Last Week: 9; Weeks on List: 7
- 15. The Winds of Dune.** Brian Herbert & Kevin J. Anderson. Tor, \$27.99. Weeks on List: 1

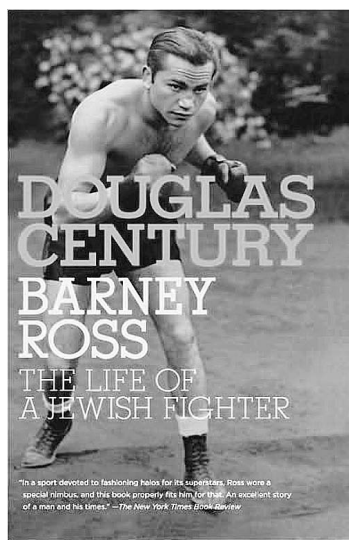
HARDCOVER NONFICTION

- 1. Culture of Corruption.** Michelle Malkin. Regnery, \$27.95. Last Week: 1; Weeks on List: 2
- 2. Outliers.** Malcolm Gladwell. Little, Brown, \$27.99. Last Week: 3; Weeks on List: 37
- 3. Catastrophe.** Dick Morris & Eileen McGann. Harper, \$26. Last Week: 5; Weeks on List: 7
- 4. Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man.** Steve Harvey. Amistad, \$23.99. Last Week: 2; Weeks on List: 28
- 5. In the President's Secret Service.** Ronald Kessler. Crown, \$26. Weeks on List: 1
- 6. Mastering the Art of French Cooking.** Julia Child et al. Knopf, \$40. Weeks on List: 1
- 7. Liberty and Tyranny.** Mark R. Levin. Threshold Editions, \$25. Last Week: 4; Weeks on List: 20
- 8. The Last Lecture.** Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow. Hyperion, \$21.95. Last Week: 8; Weeks on List: 69
- 9. Our Lady of Guadalupe.** Carl Anderson & Msgr. Eduardo Chavez. Doubleday, \$22.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 10. Michael Jackson.** J. Randy Taraborrelli. Grand Central, \$18.99. Weeks on List: 1
- 11. Master Your Metabolism.** Jillian Michaels. Crown, \$26. Last Week: 9; Weeks on List: 18
- 12. The Secret.** Rhonda Byrne. Atria/Beyond Words, \$23.95. Last Week: 12; Weeks on List: 125
- 13. The Wilderness Warrior.** Douglas Brinkley. Harper, \$34.99. Last Week: 10; Weeks on List: 2
- 14. Unmasked.** Ian Halperin. Simon Spotlight Entertainment, \$25. Last Week: 6; Weeks on List: 4
- 15. A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity.** Bill O'Reilly. Broadway, \$26. Weeks on List: 22

PAPERBACKS



- 1. Bengal's Heart.** Lora Leigh. Berkley, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1
 - 2. Dean Koontz's Frankenstein: Dead and Alive.** Dean Koontz. Bantam, \$9.99. Last Week: 1; Weeks on List: 2
 - 3. Storm of Visions.** Christina Dodd. Signet, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1
 - 4. The Quickie.** James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge. Vision, \$7.99. Last Week: 7; Weeks on List: 2
 - 5. Chosen to Die.** Lisa Jackson. Zebra, \$7.99. Last Week: 6; Weeks on List: 2
 - 6. Smoke Screen.** Sandra Brown. Pocket, \$9.99. Last Week: 4; Weeks on List: 3
 - 7. Mastered by Love.** Stephanie Laurens. Avon, \$7.99. Last Week: 2; Weeks on List: 2
 - 8. My Sister's Keeper.** Jodi Picoult. Pocket, \$7.99. Last Week: 3; Weeks on List: 12
 - 9. Dead Until Dark.** Charlaine Harris. Ace, \$7.99. Last Week: 11; Weeks on List: 32
 - 10. From Dead to Worse.** Charlaine Harris. Ace, \$7.99. Last Week: 15; Weeks on List: 17
 - 11. Club Dead.** Charlaine Harris. Ace, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 9
 - 12. Promises in Death.** J.D. Robb. Berkley, \$7.99. Last Week: 9; Weeks on List: 2
 - 13. Living Dead in Dallas.** Charlaine Harris. Ace, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 22
 - 14. Wyoming Brides.** Debbie Macomber. Mira, \$7.99. Last Week: 10; Weeks on List: 2
 - 15. The Bridegroom.** Linda Lael Miller. HQN, \$7.99. Last Week: 13; Weeks on List: 2
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THE FIGHTIN' 'PRIDE OF THE GHETTO'

LIFE TURNED OUT TO BE A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE FOR BARNEY ROSS, ONE OF THE GREAT JEWISH PUGILISTS

BY KURT RABIN
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

PROMINENT on any list of the all-time shortest books would have to be “Jewish Sports Legends.” Or so the joke goes.

Jews are more closely associated with the study of law and medicine than with athletic pursuits. But that wasn't always the case.

Growing up Jewish and a sports fanatic in the 1960s and '70s, I rooted for L.A. Dodgers hurler Sandy Koufax and Olympic swimmer Mark Spitz.

They were among the last of America's great Jewish superstar athletes. Believe it or not, though, in the 1930s over a third of all U.S. boxers were Jewish.

Douglas Century's fine new biography, “Barney Ross: The Life of a Jewish Fighter,” takes as its subject one of the greatest, along with Benny Leonard and Max Baer, of those pugilists.

Ironically, this latest entry in Schocken/Nextbook's Jewish Encounters series happens to be pretty trim itself, at just under 200 pages. But it sure packs a punch. Barney Ross, née Beryl Rasofsky, crowded a lot of living into 57 years.

Ross, who turned boxing pro at 19 in 1929 and would go on to hold the lightweight, junior welterweight and welterweight crowns, was, says late sports columnist Milton Gross, “soft-spoken and happy-go-lucky outside the ring, but inside it he was a furious machine, completely devoid of fear.”

If you were to make a film of Ross' life, which John Garfield essentially did with “Body and Soul” (1947), you'd need at least five acts.

At age 14, Rasofsky, of the same Maxwell Street, Chicago, ghetto that produced bandleader Benny Goodman, Adm. I Hyman Rickover and CBS founding President William Paley, watched as his father was gunned down in a botched holdup. His family shattered, his younger brothers and sisters were sent to live in an orphanage. Ross became a street tough, and a messenger boy for Al Capone's gang.

Act 2 would be the boxing years, when he, Jimmy McLarnin and Tony Canzoneri formed the holy trinity of the lightweight ranks.

Act 3 would open in 1942, when at age 32, Ross enlisted for combat duty in the Marines. He was awarded a Silver Star for his heroics in Guadalcanal, where he killed 22 Japanese and rescued two comrades.

Act 4 would deal with his successful rehabilitation from the morphine addiction he acquired, dealing with his war wounds and malaria.

Ross' championing of a Jewish state could serve as the curtain closer.

The great fighter avoided knockout until he met his final foe: Ross died of throat cancer in 1967.

Kurt Rabin is a copy editor at The Free Lance-Star.

BARNEY ROSS
By Douglas Century
(Schocken, \$12.95 pbk.)



A WHOLE NEW BREED OF MYSTERY

CANINE HALF OF DETECTIVE DUO SNIFFS OUT TROUBLE, NARRATES FUNNY SERIES

BY CATHY JETT
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

CHET “THE JET” has the perfect nose for a detective.

He can smell booze on his partner's breath, sniff out marijuana stashed in a teenager's room—even detect the lingering scent of cat on a suspect.

Chet is, of course, a dog.

As the canine half of Little Detective Agency, he's also the brave, smart and impulsive narrator of “Dog On It,” the first in what promises to be a howlingly funny new mystery series.

His partner is Bernie Little, a recently divorced father suffering cash-flow problems, something Chet doesn't understand although he knows it's causing Bernie many a sleepless night.

When wealthy divorcee Cynthia Chambliss offers him a \$500 advance to find her missing 15-year-old daughter, Madison, Bernie's in no position to refuse. The girl comes home just as the investigation is getting under way, but Bernie has good reason to doubt her excuse.

His suspicion that something fishy is going on is confirmed when Madison goes missing again—even though there's no ransom note and her father, real estate developer and cat-owner Damon Keefe, swears she's a runaway.

Soon Chet and Bernie are back on the case, digging up connections between the teen's disappearance, her father's troubled Pinnacle Peak Homes at Puma Wells project—and a sinister Russian mobster named Mr. Gulagov and his gang.

To further complicate matters, Bernie's started to fall for Suzie Sanchez, an investigative reporter who accompanied him on a stakeout for a story; and Chet is increasingly intrigued by the barks of the new female in his neighborhood that send, as he puts it, a “message of the most exciting kind.”

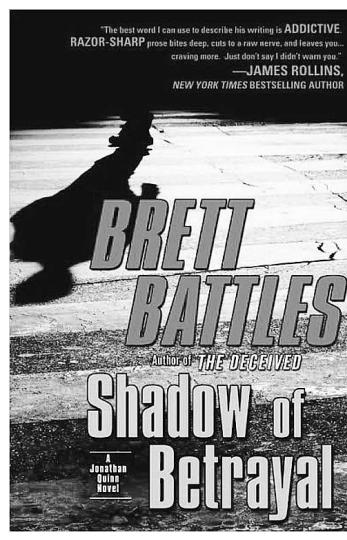
Chet and Bernie's search for Madison will cause an eventful separation—Chet, at one point, rashly jumps in the back of a suspect's truck and gets rescued by a group of bikers—but together, they prove quite a team.

What gives “Dog On It” its doggone charm, however, is the voice of Chet himself. Author Spencer Quinn nails a dog's perspective, right down to the way Chet scarfs up abandoned Cheerios and communicates with Bernie: “I wagged my tail,” he said, “that quick one-two wag meaning yes, not the over-the-top one that wags itself and can mean a lot of things.”

Quinn, who lives in Cape Cod with his dog, Audrey, is already working on the next Chet and Bernie adventure, “Thereby Hangs a Tail,” which is expected to be on shelves by Jan. 5. That should please his fans, who surely are panting for more.

Cathy Jett is assistant business editor for The Free Lance-Star

DOG ON IT
By Spencer Quinn
(Atria Books, \$25)



STEPPING OUT OF THE SHADOWS

AUTHOR BRETT BATTLES' FAST-PACED NOVEL REPRISSES ENGAGING SPY OPERATIVE

BY MATTHEW J. MEYER
FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

IN HIS LATEST novel, “Shadow of Betrayal,” Brett Battles presents contemporary themes—global terrorism and the sacrifices of ordinary good and innocent citizens—in a fast-paced action novel with sinuous plot twists. It is highly readable and entertaining despite its serious underpinnings.

Battles sets the stage of his latest Jonathan Quinn novel by revealing a mysterious but implicitly sinister plot by a clandestine group known only as the LP. Quinn and his small troupe are independent “cleaners,” operatives assigned to verify a government covert operation is successful or to make all evidence of its mess disappear. Jonathan and his colleagues are reluctantly enlisted to clean one botched operation after another.

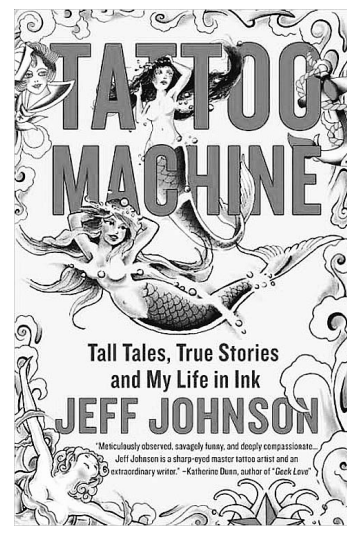
Desperate for a success, Quinn's government contact commits him to follow a flimsy lead: Dupuis, female, Montreal, unresolved.

Unknown to them, Marion Dupuis has been chased by kidnappers all the way from West Africa for sheltering a Down syndrome child. Arriving home in Montreal, she finds her parents and sister have been killed. Wild with panic and blaming herself, she disappears. Quinn must find her and the child she is protecting in order to discover the truth behind the threat that involves kidnapped Down syndrome children from around the world.

Once you get your hands on “Shadow of Betrayal,” you'll have trouble putting it down.

Matthew J. Meyer is a freelance reviewer in Spotsylvania County.

SHADOW OF BETRAYAL
By Brett Battles
(Dell, \$25)



TATTOO ARTIST INKS GRAPHIC MEMOIR

AUTHOR ANSWERS THE TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT PARLOR TRICKS OF TRADE

BY LAURA L. HUTCHISON
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

JUST LIKE the tattoos he draws on customers' skin, Jeff Johnson's book, “Tattoo Machine: Tall Tales, True Stories and My Life in Ink,” is not for everyone.

This inside look at the world of tattoo artists is gritty, graphic and brutally honest. It's also funny and fascinating.

The world of tattoos has become more mainstream. According to the American Dermatological Association, one in every four American adults has at least one tattoo. And television shows like “Miami Ink” have provided some insight into the lives of these artists whose canvas is the human body.

But Johnson, a professional tattoo artist for 18 years and owner of The SeaTramp Tattoo Company—Portland, Ore.'s oldest tattoo shop—gives a broad look at what goes on beyond the shop door.

Johnson has drawn on gang members and mothers, new-lweds and himself. He's worked with drug addicts and psychopaths and had clients who were the same.

Johnson provides a history of tattooing and glossary of tattoo-shop lingo (a bunny is a customer on pain pills; a chudder is a customer who vomits).

Johnson tells of tragic misspellings, cover-ups (names are the most often covered up tattoos) and what tattoo artists can do to difficult customers.

And, in case you were wondering, he answers the oft-asked question: Yes, tattoos hurt.

Laura L. Hutchison is an editor at The Free Lance-Star.

TATTOO MACHINE
By Jeff Johnson
(Spiegel & Grau, \$25)

BRIDGING PAST, PRESENT

IN ORDER TO MAKE SENSE OF MOTHER'S SUICIDE, HEROINE MUST REVISIT HER PERSONAL HISTORY

BY LAURA L. HUTCHISON
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

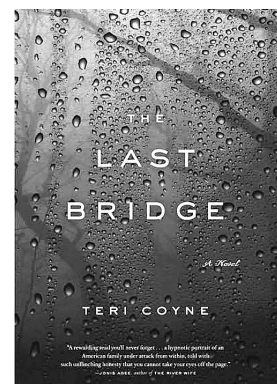
ALEX Rucker's mother was meticulous. When she returns home after her mother's suicide, Alex finds a suicide note carefully sealed inside a Ziploc bag, where it would be protected from the spatter from the shotgun blast that killed her.

The note says only “Cat, he isn't who you think he is. Mom xxxooo.”

One note; 10 words—one for every year she'd been gone, trying every day to forget her Ohio hometown and her childhood in the farmhouse where her mother took her own life.

Alex isn't sure who the “he” is her mother is referring to. Is it her abusive father, her estranged brother, her long-lost first love?

As she seeks to find the answer, Alex is forced to confront a horrible childhood and an alcohol-blurred adulthood.



“The Last Bridge” is Teri Coyne's debut novel, and it's a winner.

Cat is a richly compelling character, who has suffered greatly. Her wit is acerbic, her comments biting, her actions self-destructive.

Readers will laugh at her sarcasm and share the pain of her horrific past, all the while hoping that she finds a way to move forward and learn to live again.

Laura L. Hutchison is an editor at The Free Lance-Star.

THE LAST BRIDGE
By Teri Coyne
(Ballantine Books, \$22)