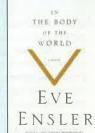
HIGH-DEMAND **BACKSTORY:** A national tour and high-profile promotion campaign will launch this scorching and enlightening memoir by the best-selling author of The Vagina Monoloques (1998).

In the Body of the World. By Eve Ensier.

May 2013. 240p. Holt/Metropolitan, \$25 (9780805095180). 812.

fter traveling to 60 countries and talking to women who "had experienced violence and suffering," internationally renowned writer and activist Ensler thought she had heard it all, but nothing prepared her for the brutality of the

Congo. The prolonged war over copper, gold, and coltan—minerals used in computers and cell phones—has claimed eight million lives and led to the rape and torture of hundreds of thousands of women. Ensler's philanthropic organization. V-Day, was beginning to build an urgently needed women's center there when she was diagnosed with uterine cancer. In a series of medical nightmares. she sustains the same harrowing wounds



as Congolese women who were gang-raped and is flooded by memories of her father's sexual assaults. As Ensler charts her horrific struggle, she aligns her body with the earth, pairing

cancer with the pillaging of the Congo and BP's poisoning of the Gulf of Mexico. As explicit as her blood-and-pain chronicles are, this is a ravishing book of revelation and healing, lashing truths and deep emotion, courage and perseverance, compassion and generosity. Warm, funny, furious, and astute, as well as poetic, passionate, and heroic, Ensler harnesses all that she lost and learned to articulate a galvanizing vision of the essence of life: "The only salvation is kindness." —Donna Seaman

Church of Scientology. The "Stooges Steps," as seen in the 1941 An Ache in Every Stake, has come to be known as the "holy grail" of Three Stooges filming locations, so what a thrill it must have been to discover it in L.A.'s Silver Lake neighborhood. For libraries that already have the Forresters' Three Stooges (2002). -Ben Segedin

Sports & Recreation

Chasing Perfect: The Will to Win in Basketball and Life.

By Bob Hurley and Daniel Paisner.

Mar. 2013. 336p. Crown, \$26 (9780307986870). 796.323.

Hurley is the basketball coach at tiny St. Anthony High School in Jersey City, New Jersey. Typical enrollment for the coed school is about 230, yet in 40 years there, Hurley and his teams have won 25 state championships and 4 national championships and enjoyed 7 undefeated seasons. If this all sounds familiar, that's because Adrian Woinarowski embedded himself in the program during the 2003-04 season to write The Miracle of St. Anthony (2005), a national best-seller. Now Hurley discusses the program in a memoir that is a little bit autobiography, a lot professional memoir, and a lot more of then-we-played. Remarkably, Hurley doesn't recruit players, and his facilities are anything but glamorous, but he has propelled many players into major-college basketball and the NBA. Hurley provides background on how he built the program, and he gives fairly detailed accounts of a few of his most recent successes. A thoroughly

eniovable account of an amazing coach and a school that does more with less. -Wes Lukowsky

YA: Teen basketball fans will be amazed at this story of how the little guy wins . . . and wins and wins. WL.

Literature

Astonished: A Story of Evil. Blessings, Grace, and Solace.

By Beverly Donofrio.

Mar. 2013. 226p. Viking, \$25.95 (9780670025756).

It wasn't supposed to happen to someone like her-a middle-aged writer acclaimed for Riding in Cars with Boys (1990), which was made into a movie starring Drew Barrymore. Yet she was raped in her own bed in her home in Mexico. It is a chilling story, and in this compelling, spiritually fulfilling memoir, Donofrio takes the reader through that terrible night and its aftermath. But this is more than a straightforward description of a crime; it is a story of healing and even, as the title indicates, grace. Donofrio was attacked at the time she was thinking about joining a monastery, and the rape made her reconsider not only her life but also her faith. Anyone who has been the victim of a crime will appreciate Donofrio's honesty and sympathy, but her memoir is for everyone who appreciates a story well told. It is an unsparing but also hopeful account of evil, misery, and suffering, as well as joy, goodness, and forgiveness. "Don't run from the pain," she writes. She doesn't, Instead, Astonished transcends it. -June Sawyers



The Cushion in the Road: Meditation and Wandering as the Whole World Awakens to Being in Harm's Way.

By Alice Walker.

Apr. 2013, 384p, illus, New Press, \$26.95 (9781595588722), 814.

Walker's declaration, "I have been a political, social, and spiritual activist for most of my life, and feel connected to peoples and struggles all over the world," sets the tone and focus of her latest, poem-laced essay collection, as does her characterization of herself as a "person of three colors (African, Native American, European)." Walker traces the roots of these trinities of vocation and identity to her mid-twentieth-century childhood in overtly racist Georgia as she writes of her devotion to gardening and meditation and her remarkable global journeys as an intrepid advocate for peace and justice. Although the book begins with dated, oddly awkward essays about President Obama's first term, Walker's compassion, courage, and humor gain strength and eloquence essay by essay. She shares her openhearted views on love; condemns torture and war; offers distinctive perspectives on Cuba, South Africa, and Gaza; pays homage to her heroes, from Howard Zinn to Aung San Suu Kyi, John Lennon, and Julian Assange; critiques books, which she calls "lifeboats"; and assures us that we can all help bring about change for the communal good. -Donna Seaman

HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Media attention will surge for this provocative collection by Walker, a revered writer of conscience.

My Foreign Cities. By Elizabeth Scarboro.

Apr. 2013. 288p. Norton/Liveright, \$24.95 (9780871403384), 818.

What's it like to fall in love and make a commitment to someone who's dying? Scarboro's memoir takes readers on an emotional journey that begins the moment her highschool friendship with Stephen blossoms into romance and ends a decade later when he loses his struggle against cystic fibrosis at the age of 30. Though Scarboro never idealizes the relationship—they can each be petulant and selfish—the power of the love she portrays is undeniable. With grace and humor, Scarboro shares the couple's most intimate moments: her dismay at Stephen's feeding tube, his dependence on painkillers, her grief-stricken decision to freeze his sperm. Throughout, the pair are surrounded by devoted friends and family who buoy the couple through the most difficult times. It's this "village" that surrounds Stephen when he dies, a scene that Scarboro handles with exquisite beauty and infinite sadness. As much as the two believed "we're in this together," in the end, she writes, Stephen was always alone as the one who was going to die and she was always alone as the one who wasn't. -Patty Wetli