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Publisher Bestsellers

Julie Gammon
University of Akron

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Publisher Bestsellers

Column Editor, **Julie Gammon** (University of Akron)

These are books that specific publishers tell us are among their most requested titles.

From **Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill**. Sent courtesy of **Ina Stern**.

FICTION

Edgerton, Clyde. *Walking Across Egypt*. Algonquin, 1987. ISBN 0-912697-51-2

Mattie Rigsbee is seventy-eight. She lives by herself in Listre, North Carolina (near Bethel). She claims she's "slowing down," but she still cuts her own grass and runs the Lottie Moon missions fund drive at Listre Baptist Church. This is the scene into which Edgerton drops Wesley Benfield—adolescent, illegitimate, and delinquent, with a mouth full of foul language and bad teeth and a craving for good food.

Gibbons, Kaye. *Ellen Foster*. Algonquin, 1987. ISBN 0-912697-52-0

Ellen Foster, the eleven-year-old heroine, tells her story with honesty, perceptivity, and unself-conscious heroism. After watching her mother die, she must leave her father's house when it becomes dangerous. It is Ellen's courage and her humor that make her story unforgettable.

Sanders, Dori. *Clover*. Algonquin, 1990. ISBN 0-945575-26-2

Clover is ten years old when her father, Gaten Hill, the principal of an elementary school, marries a white woman, Sara Kate. Hours later there is an automobile accident, and her father is dead.

In this stunning novel, Dori Sanders tells a story of black-white relationships like no other ever writ-

ten, as seen through the eyes of a ten-year-old girl who is bound to become one of the most appealing and memorable characters in literature.

NON-FICTION

Rubin, Louis. *The Weather Wizard's Cloud Book*. Algonquin, 1989. ISBN 0-912697-10-5

To predict what the weather ahead will be, take these three easy steps:

1. Figure out which way the wind is blowing.
2. Look at the clouds overhead.
3. Match what you see there with one of the full-color cloud photographs in *The Weather Wizard's Cloud Book*.

That, in essence, is the way this handy little book works, and why it has been a steady seller since its first appearance almost twenty years ago.

ALGONQUIN'S HIDDEN TREASURES

The Hidden Treasures are books that have received acclaim, but may not be selling as well as the publisher expected.

Nordan, Lewis. *Music of the Swamp*. Algonquin, 1991. ISBN 0-945575-76-9

In *Music of the Swamp*, Lewis Nordan focuses his magic and imagination on a single theme—a boy's utterly helpless love for his utterly hopeless father.

Most everything happens in the fifties, the years Sugar Mecklin is ten, eleven, and twelve. It was a time when "magic might prove once and for all to be true" and when he noticed many things, "as if they had not been there before, like the mice in his mattress, like Elvis Presley on the Philco." For all his hilarity, though, Lewis Nordan's real subject is love crossed with pain.

Ravenel, Shannon, ed. *New Stories From The South*. Algonquin 1991 (The Annual Anthology) ISBN 0-945575-82-3

This sixth annual edition offers sixteen stories by Reynolds Price, Bobbie Ann Mason, Lee Smith, Peter Taylor, Rick Bass, Larry Brown, Thomas Phillips Brewer, Robert Olen Butler, Barbara Hudson, Elizabeth Hunnewell, Hilding Johnson, Nanci Kincaid, Jill McCorkle, Robert Morgan, Mark Richard, and Susan Starr Richards.

These stories represent the best of contemporary southern short fiction. As always, expect a few surprises. ☞

Last Minute Tidbits:

- 1) Deadlines aren't written in stone. And, believe it or not, we are ALWAYS working on SOME issue of *Against the Grain*. So -- if you have something to send us, DO IT. We may be able to use it.
- 2) Journal Jumble and Library School Guru are not in this issue because of serious space problems. Back next issue, okay?
- 3) We are working on the first JAI volume of *Advances in Publisher/Vendor/Library Relations*. We hope it'll be out in late fall.