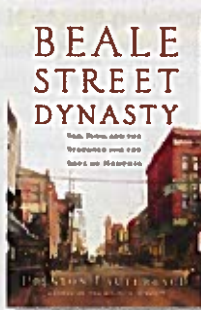


Beale Street Dynasty: Sex, Song, and the Struggle for the Soul of Memphis

Preston Lauterbach. Norton, \$26.95 (320p) ISBN 978-0-393-08257-9

Music journalist Lauterbach (*The Chitlin Circuit*) brings the history of Memphis to life in this vivid reconstruction of its volatile history from the Civil War up to the 1940s, focusing on the celebrated center of sex, sin, and song: Beale Street. He weaves the development of Beale Street as an area of black cultural and political influence with the rise and fall of Robert Church—the South's first black millionaire—and his son, Robert Church Jr., both of whom played instrumental roles in vice and civil rights over the decades. Lauterbach also concentrates on the career of E.H. "Boss" Crump, who all but controlled the city's political machine for years, and touches upon a wide cast of colorful characters, such as W.C. Handy, the "Father of the Blues." It's an engaging, entertaining, and thorough history in its coverage of crime and politics, though, this being Beale Street, more attention to the city's musical history, particularly the blues scene, would have been welcome. Still, Lauterbach superbly handles the city's race relations and the black struggle for equality; and in addressing greed, violence, decadence, desperation, and change, he paints a wonderful portrait of a city in flux and a neighborhood's lasting, though oft-overlooked, legacy. *Agent: Paul Bresnick, Paul Bresnick Literary Agency. (Apr.)*



lacked was context, wisdom, time on earth... some of which we have now." "The House that Thurman Munson Built" celebrates an early hero of his, a catcher for the New York Yankees in the 1970s. Other selections visit China ("The Suicide Catcher") and Cambodia ("Never Forget"). Still others deal with the fundamentals of eating. "He Might Just Be a Prophet" and "The Last Meal" focus on Ferran Adria's El Bulli restaurant and cancer-stricken former French president Francois Mitterrand's final repast, respectively. Whether writing about tragedy, sports, politics, or food, Paterniti effectively creates vivid worlds. He transports his audience, managing to simultaneously entertain and enlighten. *(Mar.)*

Loving Learning: How Progressive Education Can Save America's Schools

Tom Little and Katherine Ellison. Norton, \$26.95. (288p) ISBN 978-0-393-24616-2

Educator Little and Ellison (*Buzz*) provide a rich overview of the history and

methods of the largely abandoned progressive education model, as well as an optimistic vision for its future. Prior to his death in April 2014, Little, a practitioner and advocate for progressive education since 1976 who served as head of school at Park Day School in Oakland, Calif., conducted a tour of 45 progressive schools, which, blended with his own experience, provide the basis for this book. At the heart of the argument is the idea that children will love learning, if teachers recognize and respond to their individual interests. The authors eloquently present the progressive principle of integrated, student-centered learning with examples gleaned from Little's national tour of progressive schools. Linking current models with the historical underpinnings of progressive education, while openly illuminating the pitfalls and failures of the movement, Little and Ellison provide a comprehensive primer for how and why student-centered learning, combined with dedicated and thorough teaching methods, can create

avid and successful learners. *Agent: Bonnie Nadell, Hill Nadell Literary Agency. (Mar.)*

★ Ongoingness: The End of a Diary

Sarah Manguso. Graywolf, \$20 (104p) ISBN 978-1-5559-7703-0

The subtitle of Manguso's elegant, slim meditation is both deceptive and true. Though she despises endings—time, she reiterates, is not a journey from one fixed point to another but rather a never-ending continuum—she wants to explore what it means to end something that for so long made up a crucial part of her identity: for 25 years, Manguso kept a diary, a document that's now more than 800,000 words. Rather than just recording momentous events, she admits that "I couldn't face the end of a day without a record of everything that had ever happened." Curiously, this new volume, which is not the diary—an afterword discusses her decision process whether or not to excerpt it—but a reflection on the process itself and what it meant to her to be so focused on documenting and giving meaning to moments that might, in fact, have no meaning. It would be too simplistic—and nothing about Manguso's prose, despite its sparseness, is simple—to conflate her role as a mother with her changing views on the nature of time and the meaning, or lack thereof, of moments. Structured somewhat like a prose poem—there's more white space on each page than there is text—Manguso's essay is both grounding and heady, the spark of a larger, important conversation that makes readers all the more eager for her future output. *Agent: P.J. Mark, Janklow & Nesbit. (Mar.)*

Unabrow: Misadventures of a Late Bloomer

Una LaMarche. Plume, \$16 trade paper (272p) ISBN 978-0-14-218144-7

New York Observer columnist LaMarche (who blogs as the Sassy Curmudgeon) offers a combo of quirky humor and rich fantasy life throughout this collection of 20 essays, which are interspersed with hilarious graphs, cartoons, and line drawings (the last of which range from "A Guide to Public Restroom Usage for Classy Ladies" to "Shit-List Bingo"). Originally conceived as a list of life les-