Madame Bovary and Other Lovers

Four untraditional takes on love for Valentine's Day.

All There Is: Love Stories from StoryCorps

Dave Isay. Penguin Press, $24.95 (176p) ISBN 978-1-59420-321-3

In this touching, and often heartbreaking, collection drawn from the oral history project StoryCorps, participants young and old recount what love means to them. In the three sections—"Found," "Lost," and "Found at Last"—standouts include two soldiers stationed in Iraq reminiscing about a proposal amid mortar fire; a lesbian couple celebrating their legal marriage in Massachusetts; a couple coping with an Alzheimer's diagnosis; and a 9/11 widow, who later died in a plane crash, recalling her husband's last phone call. Love stories for people who don't read love stories. *(Feb.)*



No Cheating, No Dying: I Had a Good Marriage. Then I Tried to Make It Better

Elizabeth Weil. Scribner, $25 (192p) ISBN 978-1-4391-6822-6

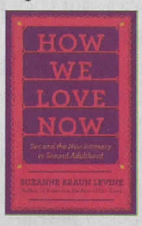
Nearly a decade into what was already a good marriage—despite a lost pregnancy and religious and temperamental differences—Weil spent a year actively improving her union by gleaning wisdom from self-help books, and with her husband, a fellow writer, sampling couples counseling, sex therapy, and cognitive behavioral therapy. This is a more verbose and unnecessary outgrowth of a *New York Times Magazine* cover story, but Weil's candid, self-deprecatingly amusing tone and her sane, perceptive "let's-fix-it-before-it-breaks" advice should inspire other couples to approach their marriages with similar care and vigor. *(Feb.)*



How We Love Now: Sex and the New Intimacy in Second Adulthood

Suzanne Braun Levine, Viking, $25.95 (272p) ISBN 978-0-670-02322-6

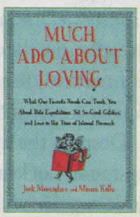
Founding *Ms.* magazine editor Levine (*Feisty Side of Fifty*) reports from the trenches of "second adulthood" to survey baby boomer women's love lives. The responses are as varied as the aging of Aquarius respondents themselves. The sexual revolution veteran brags that intercourse has "never been better" because "[t]his time my enjoyment comes first." Others search for Mr. Goodbar in cyberspace. "We are weather-beaten, but not browbeaten," one feisty 75-year-old declares—reason enough, Levine concludes, for giddy optimism for a generation galloping into old age. *(Jan. 2)*



Much Ado About Loving: What Our Favorite Novels Can Teach You About Date Expectations, Not-So-Great Gatsbys, and Lust in the Time of Internet Personals

Jack Murnighan and Maura Kelly. Free Press, $19.99 (224p) ISBN 978-1-4516-2124-2

Murnighan (*Beowulf on the Beach*) and freelancer Kelly share tales about their own romantic messes alongside wisdom they've gleaned from favorite classics. *The Bell Jar* teaches us to own up to our intimacy issues before seeking love; *Madame Bovary* shows that cheating isn't justified when it's the easy way out of an unsatisfactory relationship. Although the essays ramble and Kelly's voice grows irritating, this is a clever, amusing hybrid of lit crit and relationship advice. *(Jan.)*



flingly marmoreal: the story of a successfully consolidated omnipotence." However, under Sedgwick's Kleinian lens, "omnipotence is a fear at least as much as it is a wish." A reflexive and engaging writer, Sedgewick discusses how her practice as a "visual and textile artist" invigorates and personalizes her prose. She contrasts speaking and theoretical writing with working with physical material, praising the "reassuring grounding in reality." Engaging with Sedgwick will fill readers will wonder. *(Jan.)*

The Connection: Linking Your Deepest Passion, Purpose, and Actions to Make a Difference in the World

Anthony Silard. Atria, $24 (336p) ISBN 978-1-5827-0306-0

Silard, president of the Executive Leadership Institute, argues that how we choose to play with the cards we are dealt in life is the most important determinant of potential success. To that end, he helps people harness the power that's already inside them and provides a number of practical tools to help individuals determine their own best direction and make important choices. He shares inspiring stores from Fyodor Dostoyevski, Viktor Frankl, and Al Gore and offers a relatively fresh approach to that age-old eternal quest for happiness. Silard does succumb to a few buzz phrases that plague this type of self-actualization work, such as vision statement and nonlinear progression, but he keeps these to a minimum and provides a fairly straightforward approach to instigating positive change. While some may find the path he advocates too laborious, there is much to take away in "chunks" that will improve one's approach to life even if one never attains the Holy Grail of happiness that Silard believes is available to all of us. *(Jan.)*

Fraternity

Diane Brady. Random/Spiegel & Grau, $25 (228p) ISBN 978-0-385-52962-4

Tucked under a title suggesting beer kegs and silliness rests a serious, readable narrative of four years in the life of the Rev. John Brooks and the cohort of extraordinary young black men he shepherded through Holy Cross College from

their arrival to their 1972 graduation. Galvanized by Marin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in April 1968, "a time to heed King's call to action and take up the mantle of civil rights," Rev. Brooks secured authorization "to seek out black recruits and offer them full scholarships to the College of the Holy Cross." By September, Holy Cross, in Massachusetts, had 19 black freshmen and one transfer, a remarkable achievement in an institution that "rarely admitted more than two black men in any given year." The young men turned out to be a remarkable group as well, including, among the figures Brady attends most closely to, Edward P. Jones, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Known World*; Theodore Wells, "widely considered to be one of the greatest trial lawyers of his generation," having represented Scooter Libby and Michael Milken; and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, the transfer student. Although the topic may seem parochial, Brady, senior editor at *BusinessWeek*, has produced a cogent account that ripples more broadly and addresses issues that remain, notably affirmative action programs, but also the roles of faculty and staff, of alumni, and even parents in determining the direction of a college. *(Jan.)*

Worth Fighting for: Love, Loss, and Moving Forward

Lisa Niemi Swayze. Atria, $24 (320p) ISBN 978-1-4391-9635-9

Niemi's previous memoir, co-written with husband Patrick Swayze (*The Time of My Life*), appeared just after his death from pancreatic cancer, in 2009, and elaborates on his dancing and acting career (*Dirty Dancing*, etc.) and the couple's long, tight-knit marriage, since 1975. This work essentially delineates his sudden diagnosis in January 2008, and the tenacious struggle the two underwent to try to prolong his life—sometimes with experimental treatment, as the cancer was aggressive and had no cure. A large tumor on his pancreas was blocking the drainage of his stomach, so that Swayze also had a hard time eating; because of the advanced nature of the disease, he was not a candidate for a "cyberknife" procedure or radiation, but he did finally qualify for a Stanford University trial study employing the new drug PTK, also called Vatalanib, along with an IV chemotherapy administered once a week. Yet the cancer continued its debilitating course, and as the news of his illness spread around the world, it created a deluge of well-wishers as well as importunate inquiries. Niemi writes movingly of trying to keep a positive outlook, staying organized with drugs, treatments, and foods for her husband, employing relatives as helpers and researchers, and, most of all, using the time she and Swayze had left together to enjoy and appreciate each other. It's a heartfelt account, both brave and honorable. *(Jan.)*

★ Childism: Confronting Prejudice Against Children

Elisabeth Young-Bruehl. Yale Univ., $28 (352p) ISBN 978-0-300-17311-6

In this brilliant, provocative book, award-winning author and psychoanalyst Young-Bruehl (*Hannah Arendt: For the Love of the World*) exposes American society's prejudice against its children—"childism"—and the harm it causes them. Analyzing the social and legal development of childism in the wake of the 1960s youth protest movements, the author urges us to think about the huge range of antisocial policies and individual behavior directed against all children daily, from corporal punishment and an uncaring foster care system to the pressure placed on children to support one parent or another in a divorce. To begin reversing childism, she points to the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of the Child and a reinforcing convention on children's rights, which state that children have human rights, that they are not "possessions" of adults, and that adults and governments have an obligation to children. The documents call for, among other things, reducing child poverty and providing every child with the means and the education to develop healthily and freely. It also advocates children's participation in familial and communal life to the extent of their evolving abilities. Painting a world where thousands of children die every day from neglect, hunger, and war, Young-Bruehl's book is a clarion call for urgent action. *(Jan.)*

City of Fortune: How Venice Ruled the Seas

Roger Crowley. Random, $32 (480p) ISBN 978-1-4000-6820-3

From a few isolated islands in Italy during the Middle Ages, Venice grew to the world's greatest sea power, a position it held for 500 years. British historian Crowley (*Empires of the Sea: The Siege of Malta, the Battle of Lepanto, and the Contest for the Center of the World*) points out that, lacking land for agriculture, and well-positioned for sailing at the head of the Adriatic Sea, Venetians concentrated on trading. Preoccupied with commerce, they ignored the violent religious disputes of the era, but had no objection to violence in pursuit of profit. By 1000 C.E. Venice was thriving thanks to trading privileges with Constantinople, the wealthy capital of the Byzantine Empire. Despite this favoritism, Venice took rapacious advantage of the Empire's decline, prospering despite innumerable bloody conflicts with its equally "pushy, pragmatic, and ruthless" rival, Genoa, and the advancing Ottoman

