

Books



Thursday 22

*** FREE Porochista Khakpour:**
The Last Illusion McNally Jackson Books, 52 Prince St between Lafayette and Mulberry Sts (212-274-1160, mcnallyjackson.com). Subway: N, R to Prince St. 7pm. The second novel from *Sons and Other Flammable Objects* author Porochista Khakpour tells the story of a neglected boy made to believe he's a bird. Tonight Khakpour reads from and answers questions about the book, which is set in both rural Iran and New York City.

*** Lunch with Colum McCann**
 Contrada, 84 E 4th St at Second Ave (212-260-8484, contradany.com). Subway: F to Lower East Side—Second Ave. 11:30pm; book purchase required (\$27). Winner of the National Book Award for 2009's *Let the Great World Spin*, Colum McCann reads from his latest novel, *TransAtlantic*, over a three-course lunch. Released last year, the book explores the relationship between the U.S. and Ireland, through the eyes of Irish and American expats living on both sides of the ocean.

Andrew W.K. and Phillip Crandall
 Strand Book Store, 828 Broadway at 12th St (212-473-1452, strandbooks.com). Subway: L, N, Q, R, 4, 5, 6 to 14th St—Union Sq. 7pm; buy a copy of *I Get Wet* (\$14.95) or a \$15 Strand gift card. Andrew W.K. sits down with Phillip Crandall to discuss *I Get Wet*, Crandall's title from the music-focused 33 1/3 series. Get the scoop on the making of the *I Get Wet* album and details on W.K.'s storied antics from the party king himself.

Friday 23

FREE Light Reading
 Unnameable Books, 600 Vanderbilt Ave at St. Marks Ave, Prospect Heights, Brooklyn (718-789-1534, unnameablebooks.blogspot.com). Subway: 2, 3 to Grand Army Plaza. 7pm. Hear poems by Noel Black, Marina Eckler, Cathy Eisenhower and Sarah Anne Wallen during this outdoor reading.

Pick your perfect summer read

It's vacay time! Here's all the lit you'll need, for any jaunt.
 By **Matthew Love**



AT THE BEACH

The Kills by Richard House (Plcador, \$35), Aug 5
 Engrossing

If not exactly breezy, House's four-part, 1,000-page novel of corruption and murder is a heady page-turner. Already a hit in the U.K., *The Kills* trots the globe with professional killers and military contractors, and earns its comparisons to John le Carré with a healthy dose of political intrigue. This whopper will weigh down a tote otherwise occupied by a towel and sunscreen, and multimedia elements such as audio clips and animations enhance the reading experience, so an e-reader might come in handy.



ON THE WATER

Another Great Day at Sea by Geoff Dyer (Pantheon, \$25), available now
 The hook of Geoff

Dyer's Grumman C-2A Greyhound transport meets the arresting wire of the USS *George H.W. Bush* with a jolt and the writer arrives, stunned, on the deck of this otherworldly aircraft carrier. As in Dyer's previous work, this stimulating location—what the amused polymath calls an AIE (acronym-intensive environment)—gets his mind whirring. If you're bobbing on the briny sea, you'll relate to the author's two weeks in the Persian Gulf and will delight in every digression about dentists and the pleasures of farting alone in one's room.



IN THE AIRPORT

Bad Feminist by Roxane Gay (Harper Perennial, \$16), Aug 5
 Something with

which to to fight the inevitable soul-crushing boredom of the departure lounge. Blogger, essayist and recent novelist Gay (*An Untamed State*) labels herself a bad feminist because she doesn't mind embracing the complex and contradictory elements of her personality (e.g., nodding along when Jay Z calls women bitches, because his songs are catchy). Alternately friendly and provocative, wry and serious, her takes on everything from *Girls* to *Fifty Shades* help to recontextualize what feminism is—and what it can be.