

# SOLID

PENNSYLVANIA CHERRY OR OAK

## Diaz from page 5D

death up-close, she writes about it in prose that is vibrant, sensitive, and incisive — and underneath it all runs a kind of dry-as-a-rattler's-tail humor. As the narrator of her own slightly bizarre tale, the flat-voiced author seems the perfect choice.

"High Tide in Tucson," written and read by Barbara Kingsolver. (Harper Audio, three hours, \$17). Don't miss this quietly effective reading of selections from Kingsolver's eloquent collection of essays, published last year in hardcover. Whether she's writing of the hermit crab who lives inside her desert home, or the Dewey Decimal System

that changed her life around, or a post-cold-war visit to a nuclear weapons facility, readers of Kingsolver novels like "The Bean Trees" and "Pigs in Heaven" will appreciate these essays. Some are less closely-reasoned than others, some seem even a little smug and self-satisfied. But most of these words bloom into a kind of fine music that transcends anything else, including Kingsolver's staunch political beliefs (which crop up with fair regularity).

Highlights include the introductory essay that begins, "A hermit crab lives inside my house." Kingsolver goes on from this mundane (though slightly

startling) message to things grand and cosmological, weaving it all together like the finest spider-webbing, but keeping our eye on the aptly named Buster all the while.

In one of the concluding essays, written after she has accidentally observed both a particularly beautiful and a particularly horrific side of nature, she notes, "Everywhere you look a joyful noise is clanging to drown out quiet desperation. The choice is draw the blinds and shut it all out, or believe. What to believe in exactly may never turn out to be half as important as the daring act of belief."

Kingsolver's clear, faintly melodic reading of her own words approaches perfection.



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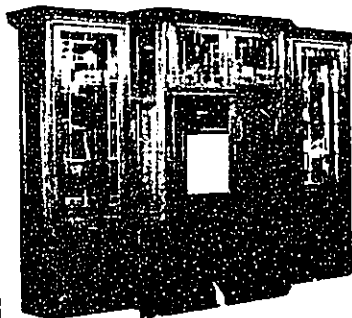
## Book sale slated

The Friends of the Huntington Woods Library will have its last used book sale of the season 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at the library, 26416 Scutia.

All proceeds benefit the library, which is west of Woodward and south of 11 Mile.

This is a \$1 sale. First four hardbacks, and first 20 paperbacks, are \$1. After that, get three hardbacks for \$1.25, six paperbacks for \$1.

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