

# New books profile famous people, memorable events

BY RON BERTHEL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Maybe Bill Bliss, Gen. George S. Patton and Jerry Seinfeld didn't have anything in common before, but they do now.

Ench - the fashion designer, the fighter and the funnyman - is the subject of a new biography.

Among other new hardcover books are novels by John Jakes, Ethan Hawke and Belva Plain; and nonfiction about a serial killer and about the New York Fire Department.

**Fashion designer Bliss died** in June, days short of his 80th birthday, but left behind his memoir: *Bare Bliss* (HarperCollins). Bliss, whose label has appeared on clothing, bed linens, furniture and even automobiles, discusses his Depression-era childhood, his father's suicide, and his experience in a secret Army unit during World War II.

Also included: 80 photos, and Bliss' meat loaf recipe.

Patton was larger than life and, at 700 pages, his biography is no pipsqueak either. In *General Patton: A Soldier's Life* (HarperCollins), Stanley P. Hirsch profiles the stormy World War II commander through newly cited archives, government documents, family papers and oral histories. Among the topics: Patton's relief from command of the 3rd Army, the attempt to exploit his diary after his death, and his relationship with other Allied generals.

In *Seinfeld: The Making of an American Icon* (HarperCollins), Jerry Oppenheimer has written a biography that is unauthorized - not that there's anything wrong with that. It examines the real Seinfeld and how he differs from the one portrayed on his popular long-running TV series. Friends, family and colleagues help profile the shy, lonely child from modest suburbia who fulfilled - and then some - his seeming improbable dream of success in standup comedy.

**SAGA**

Charleston (Dutton), Jakes' multigenerational saga about the fictional, aristocratic Bell family, is placed within a history of the South Carolina city. The story is told in three periods: the American Revolution, 1822-1842, and the Civil War. There are heroes and villains, and family members who often find themselves on opposing sides. Among them: brothers who are rivals for the same woman; and a woman whose black lover is murdered, prompting her to become an abolitionist.

In film actor Hawke's second novel, *Ask Wednesday* (Knopf), Jimmy Heartsock, a soldier stationed in Albany, N.Y., goes AWOL on a cold February day to pursue his pregnant girlfriend, Christy, who has hopped onto a bus headed for Texas and home. She has a head start, but Jimmy has a 1969 Nova built for speed. After he catches up to her bus, the couple discuss their plans for the future as they drive to Texas together.

Also AWOL, in a way, is Donald Wolfe. The New York lawyer has abandoned wife, home and career, changed his identity and fled to Georgia with his baby daughter, Tina, in Plain's *Her Father's House* (Delacorte). Tina has a happy childhood, but when she grows up, a trip to New York reveals the truth about her family's past and her father's misdeeds.

Keith Hunter Jespersen - dubbed *The Happy Face Killer* because he drew happy faces on his taunting letters to police - murdered eight women during the 1990s. His story is told in *The Creation of a Serial Killer* (St. Martin's) by Jack Olsen (who died in July at 77). Also told is the story of the two people wrongly imprisoned for four years for one of Jespersen's crimes.

Heroes are the subject of *Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York* (ReganBooks) by Thomas von Essen, New York's fire commissioner from 1996-2001 and during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He traces his career from his start as a firefighter in the South Bronx, but concentrates on the attacks, which killed 343 firefighters. Von Essen offers a firsthand account of events at ground zero on Sept. 11 and during the months that followed: the rescue efforts, cleanup and funerals.

# 'Lovely Bones' catches readers in its trap

The *Lovely Bones* (Little, Brown, 328 pages, \$21.95) by Alice Sebold

BY DONNA LIQUORI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The first chapter of *The Lovely Bones* is a trap. Once you're in it, there's no escape. It's both horrifying and mesmerizing, the kind of writing that has you still reading while you're leaving the bookstore.

Alice Sebold's first novel is more than a suspenseful page-turner. It's an innovative and tricky narrative risk that Sebold pulls off with aplomb. "My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered..." the book begins.

Susie narrates from heaven, her heaven.

"When I first entered heaven I thought everyone saw what I saw. That in everyone's heaven there were soccer goalposts in the distance and lumbering women throwing shot put and javelin. That all the buildings were like suburban northeast high schools built in the 1960s."

The landscape of heaven that Sebold creates is entrancing in a lonely sort of way, a place where something has only to be desired and it will appear.

Only life remains elusive. "Often I found myself desiring simple things and I would get them. Riches in furry packages. Dogs."

"Every day in my heaven tiny dogs and big dogs, dogs of every kind, ran through the park outside my room."

Through the narration, Susie is portrayed as a likable girl just starting to become whom she would have been when she was killed. She was a thoughtful girl who wanted to become a nature photographer. Her home life was mostly happy and her relationship with her father was particularly moving.

And in the evening, Sebold creates for Susie a safe place of women and music and dancing dogs.

"Mrs. Bethel Utemeyer, the oldest resident of my heaven, would bring out her violin. Holly tread lightly on her horn. They would do a duet. One woman old and silent, one woman not past girl yet. Back and forth, a crazy schizoid solace they'd create."

Susie watches as her family deals with her disappearance and the growing realization that something horrible has happened to her.

The description of how her sister deals with the death is particularly moving as she navigates adolescence and loss.

"I could see it happen: Lindsey's body began to knot. She was working hard keeping everyone out, everyone, but she found Samuel Heckler cute. Her heart, like an ingredient in a recipe, was reduced, and regardless of my death she was thirteen, he was cute, and

Her friends, too, struggle with the incomprehensible and brutal killing, which continues to affect them.

Susie also watches her killer as he eludes police and she learns about his other victims. She gets into his brain, learning about his childhood and how he has unsuccessfully fought the urge to kill.

Sebold has license here, and she uses it, imaginatively unfolding an unpredictable plot.

Through the narration, Susie is portrayed as a likable girl just starting to become whom she would have been when she was killed.

She was a thoughtful girl who wanted to become a nature photographer. Her home life was mostly happy and her relationship with her father was particularly moving. She held bottles for him as he built tiny ships inside them. Susie, we learn, was a steady force in the household. And the "lovely bones" are not Susie's remains, but the connections in a household that reels from loss for years.

**"ENTERTAINING, HILARIOUS AND ACTION PACKED!"**  
Shawn Edwards, FOX-TV

**THE ISLAND OF LOST DREAMS**  
PG-13

**NOW PLAYING AT THESE THEATRES!**

|                           |                  |                   |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| AMC FORUM 30              | AMC LAUREL PARK  | AMC LIVONIA 20    |
| AFC AT PIONEER HALL       | BIRMINGHAM 6     | CANTON 6          |
| MIR SOUTHGATE 20          | NOVI TOWN CTR. 8 | PHOENIX 21        |
| SHOWCASE 20               | SHOWCASE 20      | SHOWCASE 20       |
| STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING | STAR JOHN R      | STAR LINCOLN PARK |
| STAR ROCHESTER            | STAR SOUTHFIELD  | STAR TAYLOR       |
| UA COMMERCE               | UA WEST RIVER    | FORD WYOMING      |

CALL THEATRE FOR SHOWTIMES  
NO REFUND ON DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED

**"TWO THUMBS UP!"**

**CLINT EASTWOOD**  
**BLOOD WORK**  
R  
HE'S A HUNTER. SHE'S THE HUNT.  
FROM WRITING THE KILLER

**NOW PLAYING AT THESE THEATRES!**

|                           |                  |                   |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| AMC FORUM 30              | STAR FRIDAY      | AMC LAUREL PARK   |
| AMC LIVONIA 20            | BIRMINGHAM 6     | MIR SOUTHGATE 20  |
| NOVI TOWN CTR. 8          | SHOWCASE 20      | SHOWCASE 20       |
| SHOWCASE 20               | STAR FAIRLANE 21 | STAR GRATIOT      |
| STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING | STAR JOHN R      | STAR LINCOLN PARK |
| STAR ROCHESTER            | STAR SOUTHFIELD  | STAR TAYLOR       |
| UA COMMERCE               | UA WEST RIVER    | FORD WYOMING      |

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THIS MOVIE  
www.bloodworkmovie.com

**"Down-And-Out: Funny!"**  
A week's volume of *Down-And-Out* will pay actors' retirement!

**"...A Groovy Movie!"**  
Powers is undeniably one of the screen's great comic characters!  
L.A. TIMES, PEOPLE MAGAZINE

**"The Biggest Yet Installation!"**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE NEW YORKER

**AUSTIN POWERS**  
**INTERNATIONAL MAN OF MYSTERY**  
MICHAEL MYERS begins KNOWLES MICHAEL CAINE

**GOLD MEMBER**

IN 3 DIMENSIONS! 12 ONLY! 12 ONLY! 12 ONLY!

NO REFUND ON DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED

**TIME**  
"A HIGHLY STYLIZED ADRENALINE RUSH OF A MOVIE."  
JIM CAPP

**"THE BEST ACTION MOVIE OF THE SUMMER. YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!"**  
BILL JARVIS, USA TODAY

**VIN DIESEL**  
**THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS**  
REVOLUTION. REDEFINITION. REBELLION.

Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Jordana Brewster, Tyrese Gibson, Ron Rifkin, Matt Smith, Rick Yune, Scott Caan, Johnnie Lee Miller, Brian Van Holt, Michael Biehn, John S. Dwyer, Jr., John S. Dwyer, Jr., John S. Dwyer, Jr.

**STARTS FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 AT THEATERS EVERYWHERE**

|                           |                  |                   |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| AMC FORUM 30              | AMC LAUREL PARK  | AMC LIVONIA 20    |
| AFC AT PIONEER HALL       | BIRMINGHAM 6     | CANTON 6          |
| MIR SOUTHGATE 20          | NOVI TOWN CTR. 8 | PHOENIX 21        |
| SHOWCASE 20               | SHOWCASE 20      | SHOWCASE 20       |
| STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING | STAR JOHN R      | STAR LINCOLN PARK |
| STAR ROCHESTER            | STAR SOUTHFIELD  | STAR TAYLOR       |
| UA COMMERCE               | UA WEST RIVER    | FORD WYOMING      |

CALL THEATRE FOR SHOWTIMES  
NO REFUND ON DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED

**"IT'S THE MOST FUN YOU'LL HAVE BEING SCARED THIS SUMMER."**  
YOU WON'T BE THE FIRST OF YOUR AGE TO BE REMINDING OF YOU!

**"ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF THE YEAR"**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

**TWO THUMBS UP!**  
GRIPPING THRILLER  
SUSPENSE  
SUSPENSE FILM  
JAW DROPPING  
CHILLING, ROLLING  
THRILLING  
THRILLING

**MEL GIBSON**  
**signs**  
MEL GIBSON ATTITUDE

**signs**

NO REFUND ON DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED