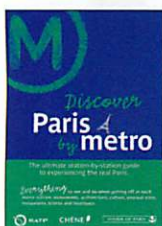


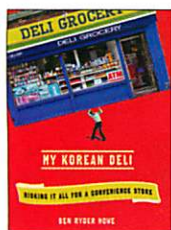
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Hot Type for Savvy Travelers by Jim Gladstone



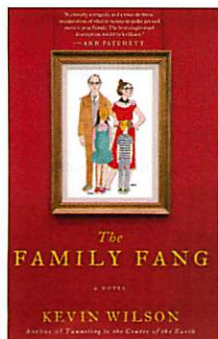
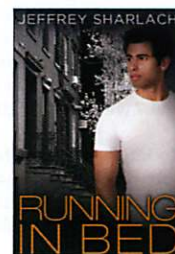
The subway map has been fortified and enriched in *Discover Paris by Metro* (The book is available in an English edition, but its website is in French. \$19.95. www.guidedeparisenmetro.fr). This new guidebook is remarkably practical for first-time visitors who want to make the most of their time and budgets, covering broad swaths of the city while avoiding both taxis and traffic. For seasoned Paris travelers, it provides an easy way to connect the dots between the tried and true and some slightly far-flung sites. From the bustling Montmartre, you can hop the 2 line straight to the relaxing green environs of the Bois du Boulogne; from the Eiffel Tower, zoom east on the 8 to Porte Dorée to visit the Château de Vincennes, home to the only medieval dungeon still standing in Europe. With chapters organized around each of Paris' 14 city-spanning lines, the book gives a whopping 145 of the city's 300 total metro stops their due, each getting its own spread with notes on attractions, restaurants, and shops in close proximity to the underground exits. Riding any single line across town and getting out at a handful of stops along its course would make for an excellent day's adventure. Collaboratively produced by the city government, the public transit authority, and French publisher Éditions du Chêne, *Discover Paris by Metro* should serve as a model for every city with an extensive subway line.

From the same publisher, comes another engaging volume on the City of Lights: Thierry Richard's *Paris for Men* (Éditions du Chêne. \$24.95. www.editionsduchene.fr), a collection of impressionistic musings on topics including shoe shopping, art cinema, solo lunches, and late-night drinking in Paris, each accompanied by choice addresses. The author—a respected food critic and cultural journalist—is straight, but hardly a Hemingway. Sure, there are a couple pages about the best places to stare at women's legs and a brief paean to the joy of bra strap sightings, but Richard's tastes are generally as metrosexual as you'd expect from a Paris dandy. In a chapter on perfume, he recommends wearing a different scent each season, with no need to stick to cologne: "Please. If you think fragrances for men don't exist, you must get that idea out of your head once and for all. You can douse yourself with notes of rose or go out at night wearing a strange powdery, powdery fragrance that wouldn't have been odd on a Second Empire tart." There are also mini-essays on how to assemble a bouquet and the pleasures of an expensive salon haircut. The book is as handsome as it imagines its readers, evocatively illustrated with a mix of photographs, black-and-white drawings, and watercolors. *Vive la frivolité!*



Sometimes, you don't have to travel far to experience a dramatic culture shift. It's a virtual shift-storm in *My Korean Deli: Risking It All For a Convenience Store* (Picador. \$15. www.us.macmillan.com), in which Ben Ryder Howe—an upper-crust Mayflower descendant who serves under George Plimpton as a junior editor at the *Paris Review*—moves to Staten Island with the extended immigrant family of his Korean-American wife and joins them in taking over a tiny, ramshackle Brooklyn grocery. Turns out that running a register, dealing with shady salesmen, processing lottery tickets, stocking shelves, and managing an ethnically diverse staff takes an altogether different skill set than line-editing literary fiction over cocktails on the Upper East Side. It is humbling with a capital H. As told by Howe, it's also terrifically funny, oddly educational (what do you really know about running a convenience store?), and, in the end, uplifting. Ryder finds common threads in desperate ways of life, and much worth emulating in people whose backgrounds are utterly different than his own.

Running in Bed (Two Harbors Press. \$14.95. www.runninginbed.com) is a smooth, easy read about dark, difficult times. Author Jeffrey Sharlach's plainspoken prose and swift moving narrative pull the reader into his autobiographical tale of coming out, coming of age, and confronting AIDS in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In the novel's opening pages, Josh Silver, an attractive 24-year-old newcomer to New York gives up on the conversion therapy he's been pursuing to quell his homosexual urges and tiptoes into the still secretive world of gay Manhattan. All the touchstones of the era are here: Fire Island, Studio 54, workplace paranoia, family anguish, the sudden onset of illness, and the tragic loss of friends. For long term followers of gay fiction, there's little ground covered here that hasn't been trod with more literary flair in contemporary classics by the likes of Andrew Holleran and Edmund White. But for younger readers, *Running in Bed* will serve as a valuable overview of the enormous differences between their lives and those of young gay men just three decades ago. Sharlach accessibly conveys both the thrill of liberation and the tragedy of contagion, always eliciting an enormous sense of empathy toward his characters. At a time when gay prom dates and gay weddings may seem like the most pressing social issues to GLBT high school and college students, this is a book that can help span the growing generation gap in our community's consciousness. It should be a part of every gay youth group's library.



AIRPLANE READ OF THE MONTH

The Family Fang, by Kevin Wilson (Ecco, \$23.99. www.wilsonkevin.com) is sneakily deep. On its wildly entertaining surface, this is a screwball family comedy in which two grown children—Anna, a hard-drinking actress whose career has been sidetracked by a lesbian sex scandal; and Buster, a failed writer—move back in with their parents, Caleb and Camille Fang. The elder Fangs are guerilla performance artists who, for years, incorporated their children into their works, staging disruptive public scenes in which Buster would projectile vomit in a hushed gourmet restaurant; or the kids would set up a sign on a street corner reading "Our dog needs an operation," and faux-fundraise by yowling an original tune with the refrain "Kill all parents." While the adult Fang kids don't quite want to kill their parents, they've got a lot of built up resentment at having grown up as human props. So when Caleb and Camille disappear, their children skeptically suspect it's just another crazy art piece. Their attempts to unravel the mystery reveal much about the strained bonds between parents and children, highlighting the conflict between wanting to belong to a family while also desiring a strong sense of independence.