

COVER STORY



Photos courtesy of BRIAN GOETZ

ABOVE, BELOW RIGHT: The view from the Oceanic Hotel on Star Island in Rye.

CATCHING *the last of* SUMMER

Star Island, Boston Harbor hotel are two spots for savoring the season



By PEGGY NEWLAND
 Correspondent

Summer goes too quickly for us in New England. Especially after eight months of snow, ice, electricity outages, and the sullen torment of spring mud and rain. I decided to add the month of September to my summer schedule and find some outposts of stolen sun, lobster boats, city harbors and rocky slabs of beachside solitude.

Star Island, Rye

I'm in a Fellini film. As my ferry from Portsmouth chugs away for the outlying islands of Appledore and Smuttynose, cheers begin by "the Pelicans" – college kids working the island for the summer. Pelicans jump up and down, blow bubbles toward the departing ferry, and dance along to themselves, no music needed. A girl, dressed in flowing purple scarves, dives expertly into the chill of the bay and comes up, laughing; she's a mermaid with scarf fins.

We file off, the load of us from the mainland, down the long pier, up toward the white clapboard of the hotel, with its wraparound porches and granite out-buildings. Someone blows a bugle from the cupola on the rocky outcropping as if to announce our arrival, and three women in goddess attire say, "Welcome."

It's September on Star Island, and I've found an island of castaway summer, even as the cicadas scream their warnings of fall.

IF YOU GO

STAR ISLAND: www.starisland.org. The Oceanic Hotel. 430-6272. Private cottages, motel rooms, and hotel lodging with shared bathrooms. Showers every other day in the bathrooms.

BATTERY WHARF HOTEL: www.batterywharfhotelboston.com. 1-877-794-6218. Ask for the "Keep the Catch Excursion," and bring your questions for Captain Fred. Includes waterfront-view room, a 2½-hour lobster adventure, and a lobster bake at your own private, outdoor fire pit. Captain Fred gives the tour Saturdays at 1 p.m.

The Oceanic Hotel – built in 1873 by John Poor, and then rebuilt in 1875 after a fire – is a throwback retreat "to the sea and for the spirit." With creaky floorboards, faded photos of heavy-skirted women and men in sailor caps, bedrooms with wide views and shared bathrooms, and a pink parlor with an upright piano, this is a place of stored memories.

Blackboards in the lobby explain the long lists of activities offered: Sunrise meditation, choir practice, yoga on the beach, yoga on the grass, drumming circles, open art barn, historical tours of gravestones, seal watch to Appledore, and organized rows across the harbor to the walking trails of Smuttynose. I decide to find a nook for the sunset and I pull a wicker rocking chair toward a group of women knitting scarves in shades of orange and pink. "Just like the

sky," one tells me, as we stare over the sea toward Portsmouth.

Lanterns are lit for the evening and the dusk is colored with fireflies. Taking a stroll past the granite cottages and a memorial statue for Captain John Smith (yes, that John Smith), I smile at a woman playing a homemade hand organ with a stuffed monkey duct-taped to her shoulder. Past the music barn, I nod at a man in cut-off jean shorts as he strums a ukulele. A choir from Michigan practices hymns in the rock church on the hill, and on a ledge, a woman in yoga pants twirls a baton loaded on both sides with water balloons.

"It's good exercise," she tells me as the water balloons slosh.

The next morning, I wake early and walk along the seaside paths, through a tunnel of twisted summer vine, and out to the rocks facing east. Others join, but we stay in silence, as we each find our own patch of ledge for the sunrise. Seagulls screech above us as the tide races into coves and backward, and it's an ocean symphony. The sun rolls its orange eye up from the horizon, and soon, it's warm – a gift of mid-September heat.

Then a bell tolls and someone shouts, "Coffee cake!" It's breakfast time and apparently, there's homemade coconut cinnamon cake, granola, bacon, fresh yogurt and unlimited coffee. But first, I grab a towel. It's time to jump off the dock and come up laughing. Perhaps I'll find the mermaid.

SUMMER | PAGE D-5

Agency's quest for clean rags recalls memories of 'Rag Man'

"The Rag Man would sit up on the buck board of his horse-drawn wagon and ride slowly through our street at least once a week. He would yell out in a monotone 'Rags, Rags.' He would take rags, newspapers, metal, tin, etc., and in turn pay you in cash what he felt the material was worth."

"Old Newark Memories," Charles McGrath, during World War II

A Mailbag reader with some slightly stained cotton cloth items asks if a group emulating this early recyclable movement is



CHRIS GRAHAM
 Chris' Mailbag

around today.

Seeking recycling source

"I figured if anyone in the area could answer this question, it would be you and your Mailbag readers. Is there any agency around that collects clean rags?" writes Diane W., of Nashua (LTR 3,222). "We have

several cotton articles of clothing with slight stains on them, so I wouldn't consider donating them to be worn, but I hate to discard them if they could be used for another purpose.

"I'm sure I'm not the only person who hates to throw away slightly stained clothes that could be put to good use by someone else. I know when I was a kid my mom knew someone who collected them, but that was a long time ago. Hopefully one of your readers can enlighten us."

"Enjoy your column! Thanks for any info you can share!"

If you can help Diane find an outlet, reach out to her at 402-1611.

Scooter lift offered

"I have, to donate for a disabled person, a lift for a scooter that was given to me," says Donna R., of Nashua (LTR 2,800). "It originally was for a Rascal scooter. It's mounted on a wooden base with wheels to be able to be moved from car to storage. I do not have any literature to go with it."

"It would have to be picked up, as both my husband and I are in wheelchairs. It is made to be attached to a car to

carry a scooter or possibly a wheelchair."

While a scooter provides mobility to places otherwise inaccessible, access to the scooter is the first step to getting out and about! If this lift would help you get around, call Donna at 882-3148.

Furnishing a home

"I am hoping you could include my husband and I in your column. We are moving into an apartment ... after being homeless for a few years," writes Bryanna B., of Nashua (LTR 3,223). "We need curtains, blankets, towels, wash-

cloths, and a washer and dryer (electric). If anyone would like to purchase a Market Basket gift card for food, it would also be greatly appreciated."

The Mailbag also received a request from Tammy T., mother of Bryanna's husband, Johnathan, regarding the couple's needs. It always helps to have a caring mom. If you can help, call the couple at 1-207-205-9716.

Starting over

"It's a long and painful story, but I'm starting over,

MAILBAG | PAGE D-2

Writing is tight and tense in 'The Killing Kind'

By JEFF AYERS

The Associated Press

"The Killing Kind" by Chris Holm; Mullholland Books; hardcover, 320 pages; \$26.

Chris Holm takes an interesting spin on the anti-hero scenario with his new novel, "The Killing Kind." Mike

BOOK REVIEW

Hendricks was a soldier with a fiancée and a wonderful life waiting for him when he returned from his overseas deployment. But the horrific results of a mission make him decide to declare himself dead, and he now spends his days as a hitman with extreme skills.

What makes him unique from other killing professionals is that he only hits

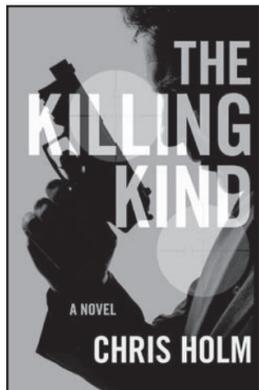


Image courtesy of MULHOLLAND BOOKS/LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY via The Associated Press

The cover of the book "The Killing Kind" by author Chris Holm.

other hitmen. Hendricks learns who is being targeted and who is after that person, then approaches the potential victim. For a

BEST-SELLERS

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "The Girl in the Spider's Web," David Lagercrantz.
2. "All the Light We Cannot See," Anthony Doerr.
3. "Make Me," Lee Child.
4. "Go Set a Watchman," Harper Lee.
5. "Purity," Jonathan Franzen.

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up," Marie Kondo.
2. "Why Not Me?" Mindy Kaling.
3. "Between the World

and Me," Ta-Nehisi Coates.

4. "Rising Strong," Brene Brown.
5. "Being Mortal," Atul Gawande.

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. "The Martian," Andy Weir.
2. "Euphoria," Lily King.
3. "My Brilliant Friend," Elena Ferrante.
4. "Everything I Never Told You," Celeste Ng.
5. "Big Little Lies," Liane Moriarty.

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. "The Boys in the Boat," Daniel James Brown.
2. "The Mindfulness Coloring Book," Emma Farrarons.
3. "Yes Please," Amy Poehler.
4. "The Organized Mind," Daniel J. Levitin.
5. "Black Mass," Dick Lehr, Gerard O'Neill.

– *The Indie Best-seller List is based on reporting from hundreds of independent bookstores across the United States. For an independent bookstore near you, visit indiebound.org.*

fee he will save that person from certain death. Criminals who have been hiring the best assassins are upset that they

are being killed without any pattern or evidence left behind. A group called The Council hires a ruthless killer named

Engelmann to find the hitman and eliminate him. Engelmann relishes the challenge, and the chase is on.

Meanwhile, FBI Special Agent Charlotte Thompson has been chasing someone she calls The Ghost. She's figured out that someone is responsible for murdering some really bad people, but she has no idea how to track him down. The Council's attempts to bring down Hendricks will put Thompson in the crosshairs of a battle that threatens not only the two assassins but innocent civilians as well.

The violence in "The Killing Kind" is visceral, the writing is tight and tense, and the characterizations are more in-depth than usual for this genre. This is a fun spin on crime fiction by having a hero who may also be the villain. The unpredictability of the story will also have readers wondering what's going to happen next, if this is indeed the first in a series.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

NOTE: Library items are submitted by the libraries and are only lightly edited. For more library events, visit nashuatelegraph.com/community.

NASHUA

Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., 589-4600, carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org, nashualibrary.org.

ADULT COLORING GROUPS

Rediscover the joys and relaxation of coloring at the Nashua Public Library, where two adult coloring groups will meet. A daytime group meets 2-3:30 p.m. Mondays. An evening group will meet from 7-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Since the meetings will be informal, participants can attend part or all of the sessions and come with friends or meet new ones. Bring your own coloring books, colored pencils and markers, or use ours. The group is free and open to adults age 18 and up.

BROOKLINE

Brookline Public Library, 16 Main St., 673-3330, bplnh.weebly.com or on Facebook at Brookline Public Library, NH.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The library's board of trustees will meet at 7 p.m. Oct. 6. Meetings are open to the public.

HUDSON

George H. and Ella M. Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, 886-6030, askus@rodgerslibrary.org, rodgerslibrary.org or rmlnh.org/events.

COMPUTER CLASSES

The Rodgers Memorial Library offers a number of free computer classes. Registration is required for all classes. 2 p.m. Oct. 5 and 7 p.m. Oct. 6: College & Scholarship Info Online." Explore some

online resources for college searches, finding scholarship money, and preparing for admissions.

MATINEES ADDED TO MONTHLY FREE MOVIES

Cinema Celebration, the Rodgers Memorial Library's monthly free movie night, will now have a matinee showing as well. Cinema Celebration films are shown the second Thursday of the month. On Oct. 8 at 2 and 6:30 p.m. we will be showing a critically acclaimed action comedy starring Melissa McCarthy as a deskbound CIA analyst thrust into the field as an undercover operative.

BRINGING CEMETERIES TO LIFE

How do we read and interpret markings on old tombstones? What do some of the symbols mean? Hudson native David Alukonis will share history and anecdotes about local tombstones, markers and historical carvings. Among Alukonis' many accomplishments, he is president of the Hudson Historical Society and a Hudson cemetery trustee. He is also a registered taphophile. Intrigued? Please join the Genealogy Club for a hauntingly good discussion – if you dare – at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 9. The Genealogy Club meets the second Friday of each month at 1:30. All are welcome. Go to rodgerslibrary.org/events or call 886-6030 for information on upcoming topics.

USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Library of Hudson will hold a used book sale from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 11 and 5-8 p.m. Oct. 15 in the lower level of the Hills Memorial Library building, 18 Library St.

MERRIMACK

Merrimack Public Library, 470 Daniel Webster Highway, 424-5021, merrimackpl@merrimacklibrary.org, merrimacklibrary.org. Registration for adult events is encouraged and may be required for some events because of space limitations.

'MUSIC FROM WEST AFRICA AND BEYOND'

"Music From West Africa and Beyond," with Sean Gaskell, will be presented 7-8:30 p.m. Oct. 8 in the Klumpp Room. Gaskell features traditional songs on the kora, a 21-string harp that he learned how to play throughout the course of multiple visits to its homeland in Gambia, West Africa. Gaskell has studied extensively under the instruction of Malamini Jobarteh and Moriba Kuyateh, both of Brikama, Gambia. He has been featured at a number of music festivals in the U.S., Gambia and Senegal. Information: sean-gaskell.com. Registration required.

MILFORD

Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., 249-0645, refdesk@wadleighlibrary.org, wadleighlibrary.org. Registration required for all programs.

MORNING BOOK GROUP

The Morning Book Group will meet at 10 a.m. Oct. 8 to discuss "The Humans" by Matt Haig. Copies are available at the Main Desk. Newcomers welcome.

MONT VERNON

Daland Memorial Library, 5 North Main St., 673-7888, dalandlibrary.wordpress.com.

JUNIOR BOOK CLUBS

Bonkers for Books junior book club for 3rd- and 4th-graders will meet 4-5 p.m. Oct. 7 to discuss "Tuesdays at the Castle" by Jessica Day George.

WILTON

Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Road, 654-2581, wiltonlibrarynh.org.

To submit news or photos for this feature, email neighbors@nashuatelegraph.com by Monday for the following week's section.

Sharp, concise tale in 'Cop Job'

By BRUCE DESILVA

The Associated Press

"Cop Job" by Chris Knopf; The Permanent Press; hardcover, 256 pages; \$29.

The Hamptons, a group of hamlets on Long Island's south fork, is one of America's most opulent summer colonies – one that is gradually crowding out what is left of the fishing villages and workmen's cottages that once dotted the shoreline. Sam Acquillo, a former pro boxer turned cabinet-maker, stands astride these worlds, not always entirely comfortable in either.

This makes him well positioned to pursue his hobby – sticking his nose into police investigations. In the past, Sam's meddling has not been welcomed by the local authorities. In fact, the district attorney's office has tried to bring criminal charges against him. But

in "Cop Job," the sixth novel in this series, the police chief and prosecutor invite Sam to investigate the murder of a disabled war veteran.

At first, Sam wonders why, but it doesn't take him long to figure out that the victim was a police informer, that two other "snitches" had recently turned up dead and that officials fear an insider might have leaked their names to local drug smugglers.

As Sam tries to piece the case together, he is threatened, someone close to him is attacked, and he and his sidekick, attorney Jackie Swaitkowski, find themselves with a hoard of colorful suspects. The case is so puzzling that it seems Sam may never get to the bottom of it. But of course he does, wrapping everything up with a slam-bang action finish.

As always with a Chris Knopf novel, the writing is as sharp and precise as Sam's wood chisels, making "Cop Job" a worthy entry in this entertaining series.

BOOK REVIEW

Summer | Captain Fred brings visitors to empty lobster traps

CONTINUED FROM | PAGE D-1

Battery Wharf Hotel, Boston Harbor

"Lift the lobster up and look for the notch," Captain Fred of Two Buoys Lobster Company tells me as we head out on his lobster boat one afternoon in Boston Harbor. "You see a notch on the tail, you throw her back over."

But this one is a male and he's lost one claw. "He'll grow another," Captain Fred tells me.

The harbor is crazed in late September, with sailboats careening past, tugboats pushing oil tankers and pleasure yachts zipping over a wake of flip-flopping waves. Captain Fred's boat – all 35,000 pounds of it, with its deep freezer section for fish and lobster – is sturdy. I can stand, bracing my rubber boots, on the flatbed.

"Now, measure its body," Captain Fred says as he hands me a lobster. He's "banded" the one big claw



Photo courtesy of BRIAN GOETZ

The author bands a lobster with Captain Fred of Two Buoys Lobster Co.

and the lobster stares at me. The little guy's is only 5 inches long, so he's "too small for the pot." Captain

Fred lets the lobster "out for a walk" on the deck. I feel like Woody Allen in "Annie Hall" as I sit on a

bucket and lift my boots up from its clacking tiny claw. Soon, off comes the lobster's band, and Captain

Fred tosses the emancipated crustacean over the side of the boat. We are on to our next trap.

Captain Fred's traps are painted orange and green. Each of the lobster boats have their colors and no one touches another's trap. "Hauling traps" seven days a week, 365 days of the year unless there's a blizzard and the boat ices up, Captain Fred is a tough one. But he has a tender soul. "I love to bring my grandkids on the boat," he says. "I've raised them on the water."

Cranking in the traps, Captain Fred keeps an expert eye on the twisting rope line. "You step into the noose of rope, you're in the drink," he tells me.

"You ever fall overboard?" I ask.

"Once," Captain Fred says. "And that was sufficient."

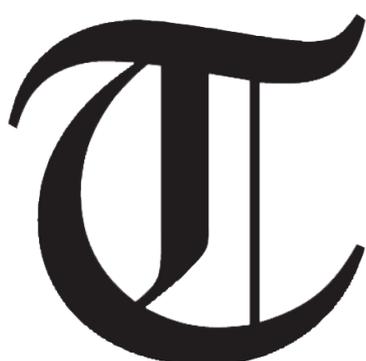
When we return from hauling traps, I choose a lobster for my dinner. My "landlubber" husband, Brian, shakes his head. He'll probably opt for a rib eye steak.

"Two for you, then," Captain Fred laughs, so I pick another big boy for my plate.

Waving goodbye to Captain Fred, Brian and I head over to the Aragosta Restaurant for the evening. Surrounded on all sides by Boston Harbor, and with a wraparound pier and sidewalk, this hotel and restaurant is situated perfectly for an outdoor dinner on the dock. Fire pits are lit as we sit on cushy, nautical inspired couches, and with perfect martinis, we salute the sea. Couples stroll past us on the wharf as they head to the Festival of St. Anthony next door in the North End.

"Your catch is here," the waiter tells me, as he carries a black cauldron to the fire pit. Inside, sit two 1-pound lobsters, chorizo, potatoes, corn on the cob – everything steamed in beer brodo.

With homemade s'mores for dessert, and a line of sailboats catching the last of sunset, this is the perfect ending to a September summer.



It's local. It's live.

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