



Musical Mamas

What's a busy mom with a recording studio in her backyard to do? If you're singer Monica Cravotta, co-owner of Hideout Studios, you gather friends and put together a children's album. In 2006, while playing a Strings Attached concert alongside singer-songwriter Sarah Sharp and folk rocker Libby Kirkpatrick, Cravotta realized they should be making music for their babies—they were each eight months pregnant with their first children. Three years later, with a lineup of talented ladies, including Asleep at the Wheel's Elizabeth McQueen and indie singer-songwriter Noëlle Hampton, *Sweet Songs* was born. "The content is something a child would like, but an adult wouldn't mind hearing it 12 times in the car," Cravotta says of the album. Produced by Sara Hickman (see "Pushing Play," page 52), the 13 tunes on *Sweet Songs* are mostly original, but there are a few covers tucked in, such as Sharp's jazzy rendition of "Three Bears." "What's so incredible for my girls is that they don't have the idea that somebody else makes

music," Cravotta says of Sadie, 3, and Izzy, 19 months. "It's like, 'Oh, can I hear Libby's song?' These are people they know." While Cravotta's girls have gotten an early listen to the album, everyone else will hear it on May 9 at the Mother's Day release party at Big Red Sun, with all of the album's profits going to Mothers' Milk Bank. "We're really happy to give back in this way," Cravotta says. The album is also available at austinsweetsongs.com. —N. BECKLEY



10 for '10

SUMMER MUST-READS FROM THE AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



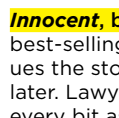
***The Unnamed*, by Joshua Ferris**

Acclaimed author Ferris follows up his debut novel, *Then We Came to the End*, with this moving tome. It follows a lawyer as his life is destroyed by a compulsion to walk until exhaustion.



***The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, by Stieg Larsson**

In the final novel in this best-selling trilogy, which includes *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, the main character fights back.

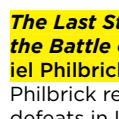


***Innocent*, by Scott Turow** This sequel to the best-selling novel *Presumed Innocent* continues the story of two law adversaries 20 years later. Lawyer-turned-writer Turow's work is every bit as page-turning as John Grisham's.



***Dead in the Family*, by Charlaine Harris**

Fans of HBO's *True Blood* will sink their teeth into the new Sookie Stackhouse novel. She endures scrutiny of her relationship with vampire Eric and the wrath of a supernatural being.

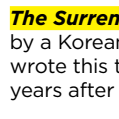


***The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn*, by Nathaniel Philbrick** National Book Award-winner Philbrick reassesses one of the most iconic defeats in U.S. military history.

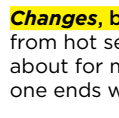


***The Last Hero: A Life of Henry Aaron*, by Howard Bryant**

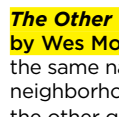
The first definitive biography of Baseball Hall of Famer and homerun-champ Hank Aaron chronicles the obstacles he overcame in a time thick with racism.



***The Surrendered*, by Chang-Rae Lee** Inspired by a Korean War story his dad told him, Lee wrote this tale of two people who reunite 30 years after meeting in a Korean orphanage.



***Changes*, by Jim Butcher** The newest novel from hot series *The Dresden Files* was buzzed about for months before it hit bookstores. This one ends with a cliff-hanger.



***The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*, by Wes Moore** This novel follows two kids with the same name who were born in the same neighborhood. One (the author) is successful; the other gets life in prison. —DOMINIQUE ALCALA