Petite Anglaise: A True Story

Catherine Sanderson. Spiegel & Grau, $24.95 (304p) ISBN 978-0-385-52280-9

From the moment she started French lessons at her Yorkshire grammar school, Sanderson was hooked on all things French. Soon she found herself a pen pal in Lyons whom she just had to visit, and then an exchange job or two in France after graduation. Before long, she was living full-time in Paris with the French boyfriend (aka "Mr. Frog") who'd fathered her daughter. The office job that made her French dream possible wasn't exactly riveting, but one day, when she was roaming the Internet, she discovered the world of bloggers. She created her own, christening herself "Petite Anglaise," and gave birth to her very own "alter ego." At first, being Petite Anglaise gave Sanderson a vehicle for commenting on the lifestyles of the French; gradually, it became a sounding board for her domestic discontents. Not only was her blog an enormous hit, she also began to enjoy the attentions of one of Petite Anglaise's online fans. Naturally—as any romance reader could predict—she ditched Mr. Frog in favor of the online lover. Sanderson's memoir is compulsively readable, especially since she's jazzed up the basic romance formula with all the issues around blogging, like the problem of Petite Anglaise being "wittier and sexier" than she is. *(June)*

First Stop in the New World: Mexico City, the Capital of the 21st Century

David Lida. Riverhead, $25.95 (304p) ISBN 978-1-59448-989-1

According to author Lida, Mexico City is the archetypal city of the 21st century and a model for how cities are evolving. A sprawling immensity of more than 20 million people, many of them poor, Mexico City took shape with almost no planning and remains plagued by congestion, pollution and poor services. Yet for Lida, Mexico City provides excitement and spontaneity that has been lost in the big capital cities of the developed world. In discrete chapters, Lida covers sex, traffic, tacos, the routines of street vendors, the feared kidnappings and many other aspects of the city's culture. A longtime resident and working journalist in the city, Lida has a firsthand familiarity with its cantinas and crime, its markets and malls, and the daily life of its inhabitants, called *chilangos*. Lida also leavens his journalism with personal stories, such as a meeting with a tireless cab driver who eats onions for energy and his own experience of being kidnapped. Unfortunately, Lida's ambitious attempt to provide a panoramic view of the city is not served well by his prose, which rarely rises above standard-issue journalese. In the end, however, his book makes an excellent general guide to Mexico City. *(June)*

Your 15th Club: The Inner Secret to Great Golf

Bob Rotella with Bob Cullen. Free Press, $24 (192p) ISBN 978-1-4165-6796-7

This is the sixth book by noted sports psychologist Rotella (*Golf Is Not a Game of Perfect*) focusing on the often troubled mass of gray matter between a golfer's ears. Since the rules of the game allow for only 14 clubs, the 15th referred to is a metaphor for a player's confidence. In the first 14 chapters, Rotella outlines what it takes for a golfer to develop mental strength on the course, prescribing a regimen of positive reinforcement through the following: understanding your attitude, cultivation of a confident outlook, acceptance of imperfection, forgetting poor play, positive spoken and written affirmations, visualizing success, becoming a cheerleader for yourself, and commitment to an excellent short game. The final two chapters focus on Rotella's close relationship with Irish player Padraig Harrington, his client who won the 2007 British Open. Rotella says the effort to build a confident mind, like exercise to strengthen the body, requires commitment. The book is a smooth read and easy to digest in a few sittings, but it has many familiar echoes of advice in positive thinking and sports psychology books, including Rotella's own, that have gone down green fairways before. *(June)*

A Voyage Round John Mortimer: The Biography of the Creator of Rumpole of the Bailey

Valerie Grove. Viking, $27.95 (560p) ISBN 978-0-670-01880-2

According to London *Times* reporter Grove (*The Compleat Woman*), the creator of the loud and lovable fictional barrister Rumpole and the screenwriter for the television adaptation of *Brideshead Revisited* is himself a flamboyant barrister, prolific writer and compulsive womanizer. John Mortimer's complex personal life includes expulsion from Oxford for suspected homosexuality; courtship of his first wife, Penelope, when she was married and impregnating his second wife while still married to Penelope. His father, Clifford, a brilliant lawyer who eventually went blind, was the major influence on Mortimer's life, and he dramatized him repeatedly, most notably as Rumpole and in his play *A Voyage Round My Father*. An indefatigable barrister, Mortimer handled landmark obscenity cases as a Queen's Counsel. His friends and collaborators include Stoppard, Pinter and Olivier, and he rolled along in his wheelchair at Prince Charles's wedding to Camilla. Although lively, intelligent and remarkably frank for an authorized biography, Grove's latest will likely not create much of a stir in America, where Mortimer isn't a household name. Photos not seen by *PW*. *(June 2)*

★ Audition: A Memoir

Barbara Walters. Knopf, $29.95 (624p) ISBN 978-0-307-26646-0

Although Walters writes, "It was not in my nature to be courageous, to be the first," her compulsively readable memoir proves otherwise. No one lasts on TV for more than 45 years without the ability to make viewers feel comfortable, and Walters's amiable persona perfectly translates to the page. She gives us an entertaining panorama of a full life lived and recounted with humor and bracing honesty. Walters is surprisingly candid: about her older sister's retardation, her father's suicide attempt, her midlife affairs (including ones with John Warner—before and after his marriage to Elizabeth Taylor—and a very married Edward Brooke, the first African-American elected to the U.S. Senate since Reconstruction), her daughter's troubled teen years and her acrimonious relationships with coanchors Frank McGee and Harry Reasoner. She vividly recounts her decision to leave NBC's *Today Show* after 14 years to become the first female nightly news coanchor, and tells of the firestorm of criticism she endured for accepting that pioneering position and its million-dollar